Irish Independent

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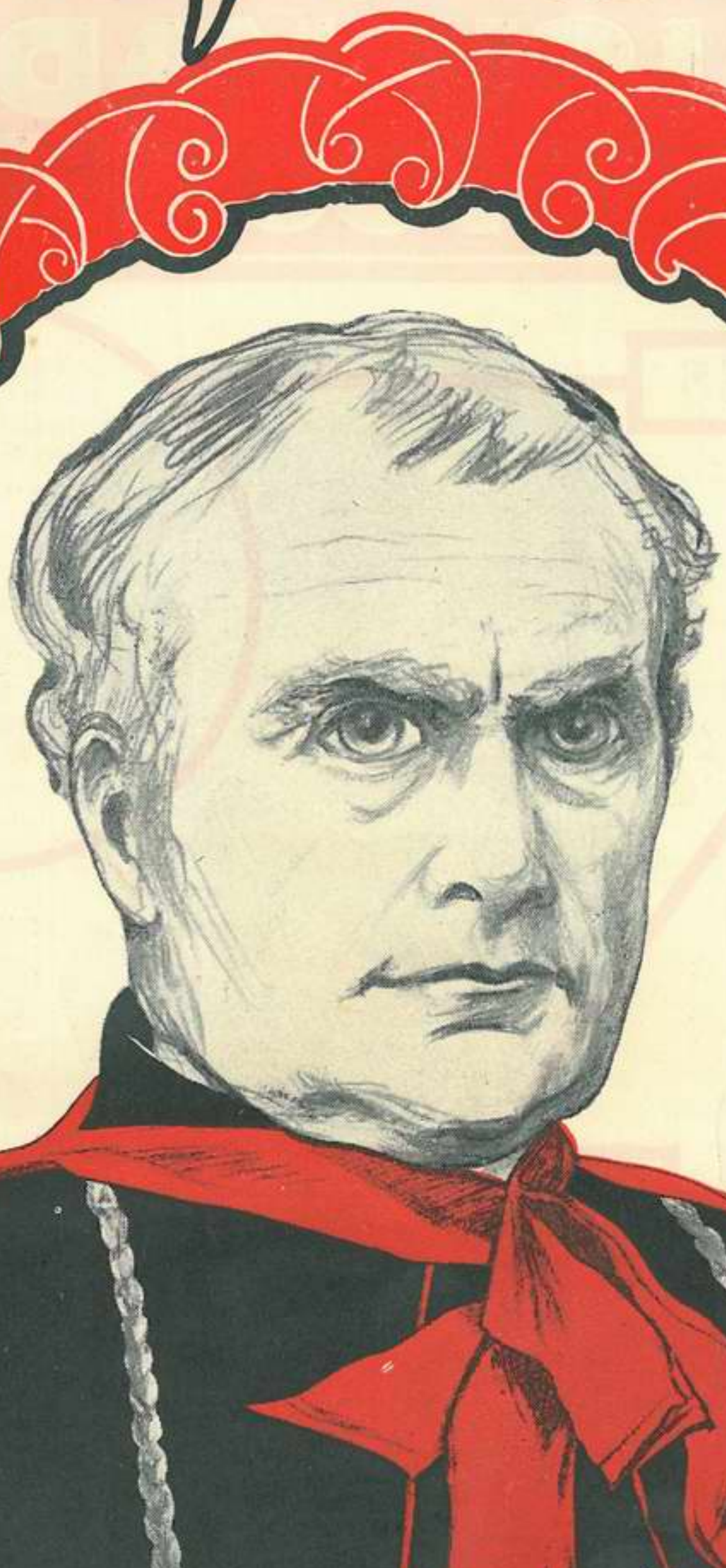

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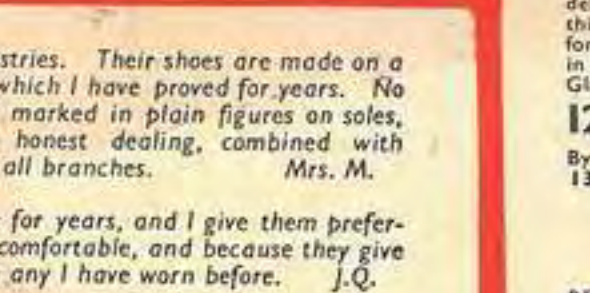

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EASTER 1934

Independent House, Dublin.

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NÍL CUMANN D'A FAGAR FA DOMAN MÓN CÓM THÉAN LÁIDIN LEIR AN GCUMANN FAN INDIU. DO CUIR FÉ FUINNEAM I NGÉAGAIB AGUS I GCROIDTIB AOR ÓG NA HÉIREANN Ó FOIN I LEIT. NÍ H-É AMÁIN GUR CORAIN FÉ CLUICÍ ÁR FINNFEAR AN BÁTAD AC DO COIMEÁD FÉ TÍR-GHÁD AGUS FFHID NA FAOIHRE NAMBEATAIB, TUG FÉ TEAGARC DON AOR ÓG FEANAMLACT AGUS FMACT ORNA FÉIN A CLEACTAD. NÍ NAIB NIAM NAN MEARC CUMANN A DEIN FAOTAN NÍOR DÚTHACTAIGE AN FON NÁIRIÚNTACTA AGUS FAOIHRE NA HÉIREANN NÁ AN CUMANN LÚIT CLEAR FAN.

NA CLUICÍ GAOLACA A BÍ I MBÉAL BÁIR I MBLIAIN 1884 TÁID I MBUAID-NÉIM FÉ LÁTAIN; TÁID AG DUL I DTREIRE AGUS I GCOMACT IN AGAID AN LAE AGUS BEID RIAD D'A GCLEACTAD AN RUAID NA HÉIREANN AN FAID IR A FEAROCAID CANNAIG CAIRIL NA MUMAN.

TÁ AN CUMANN CAOGAD BLIAN D'AOIR I MBLIADNA AGUS RÍLEANN LUCT AN *Irish Independent* GUN CEART FÉACAINT RIAN AN RTAIN AN CUMAINN AGUS FÉACAINT NOM-AINN AR AN OBAIR ATÁ LE DÉANAM FÓR. DHONNAIMÍD AN PÁIPÉAR FÉ LEIT REO AN ÁR LÉIGTEÓIRÍ LE FÚIL GO MBEID AN CUMANN COM LÁIDIR FUINNEAMHAIL GAEDEALACH I MBLIAIN 1984 AGUS ATÁ INDIU.

LOOKING BACK

FIFTY years ago the traditional pastimes of the Gael were threatened with extinction. A small but earnest group who met in a room in a Thurles hotel on November 1st, 1884, decided to take action; and that day the Gaelic Athletic Association was founded.

No other organisation of its kind is as powerful as the G.A.A. is to-day. Ever since its birth it has infused into the youth of Ireland energy of limb and spirit. Not only did it save our ancestral pastimes from being submerged but it helped to preserve the spirit of patriotism and liberty, and it taught the youth the lessons of manliness and discipline. No other association has done more solid work in the cause of Irish nationality and freedom.

The Gaelic games which were facing extinction in 1884 are to-day triumphant, growing in vigour and power day by day; they will survive and be cherished as long as the Rock of Cashel stands on the plains of Munster.

On the occasion of this Golden Jubilee year of the G.A.A. the *Irish Independent* deems it fitting that its readers should have an opportunity of looking back upon the Association's history and of looking ahead to the tasks that remain to be done. In offering this special Jubilee Supplement to our readers we pray that the G.A.A. fifty years hence may be as strong, vigorous and Irish as it is to-day.

HISTORY OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

A Story of Fifty Years of Successful Effort

GENERAL SECRETARIES

Name.	Year Appointed.
Michael Cusack, Dublin ...	1884
John Wyse-Power, Naas (and Dublin)	1884
John McKay, Cork	1884
J. B. O'Reilly, Dublin	1886
Timothy O'Riordan, Cork	1886
James Moore, Dundalk ...	1887
Wm. Prendergast, Clonmel	1888
P. R. Clery, Caherconlish	1889
Maurice Moynihan, Tralee	1890
Patrick Tobin, Dublin	1892
David Walsh, Cork	1894
Richd. T. C. Blake, Navan	1895
Frank B. Dineen, Dublin...	1898
Luke J. O'Toole, Dublin ...	1901
Padraig O'Keeffe, Cork ...	1929

THE 'eighties of the last century were a time of decay in Gaelic culture and tradition. Political oppression went hand-in-hand with economic depression. The language was dying where it was not dead; the emigrant ship was taking the flower of the nation's manhood into exile; the survivors at home were engaged in a life-or-death struggle for their lands and homesteads.

The blight had fallen heavily upon athletic pastimes. Irishmen had inherited a finer tradition in manly pastimes than any other people. They could look back with pride to the golden age when the Tailteann Games on the plains of Meath occupied in the national life of pre-Christian Ireland a place more honoured than that of the Olympiad with the Greeks.

INSUPPRESSIBLE GAMES.

Their essentially native pastimes—hurling, by common consent the most superb game of its kind known to this day; weight-throwing, leaping, and running—had been the glory of the ancient warriors and the theme of mediæval poets. The English invader, by penal laws and municipal decrees, had tried to crush the practice of these sports of the Gael; but in vain.

On the battlefields of Europe, where the Wild Geese faced death in every nation's battles but their own; in London itself the Irishmen carried their camans and rivalled one another in weight-putting and jumping as their countrymen did at home by the banks of the Shannon and on the slopes of the Galtees.

The dreary decades that followed the Union brought the great decay. Consider the position just fifty years ago, on the eve of the birth of the G.A.A.

BEFORE THE G.A.A. CAME.

Athletics in Ireland were controlled directly by an English Association. An anti-national and snobbish clique practically excluded the masses from such competitions as existed.

"The laws under which athletic sports are held in Ireland," said Maurice Davin at the time, "were designed mainly for the guidance of Englishmen, and they do not deal at all with the characteristic sports and pastimes of the Gaelic race."

"Irish football is a great game," he wrote, "but there are no rules for either hurling or football now, and they are often dangerous."

"Ball-playing, hurling, football-kicking according to Irish rules, casting, leaping in various ways, wrestling, handy-grips, top-pegging, leap-frog, rounders, tip-in-the-cap are now dead and buried, and, in some localities, forgotten," wrote Archbishop Croke in 1884.

CUSACK AND DAVIN LEAD.

There were a few men of action who saw where this neglect of the native games would lead. Michael Cusack, a Clareman who kept a school in Dublin, was one of them. He wrote occasionally for "United Ireland," the weekly paper then edited by William O'Brien.

In October, 1884, in an article in "United Ireland," Cusack sent out a call to the people to take the management of athletics into their own hands and "promote every form of athletics which is peculiarly Irish, and remove with one sweep everything foreign and iniquitous in the present system.

A week later Maurice Davin, then retired from athletics but still as honoured as the greatest athlete in the world, wrote in hearty approval. A week later still appeared Michael Cusack's letter summoning a meeting for Thurles.

THE FAMOUS MEETING.

On 27th October, 1884, Cusack issued a circular from his school at 4 Gardiner's Place, requesting attendance at "a meeting which will be held at Thurles on November 1 to take steps for the formation of a Gaelic Association for the preservation and cultivation of our National Pastimes, and for providing rational amusements for the Irish people during their leisure hours." It was signed by Maurice Davin and Michael Cusack.

The meeting took place in the billiard room of Hayes's Hotel, Thurles. Maurice Davin presided. So far as is known, only six others attended.

BIRTH OF THE G.A.A.

There and then they established "a Gaelic Association for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes." Maurice Davin was elected first President; Michael Cusack, John Wyse-Power, and John McKay were elected Secretaries.

Michael Davitt, in a letter which was read to the meeting, advocated the revival of the ancient Tailteann Games open to all the Celtic races, for competitions in sport, music, poetry, and oratory, a proposal which was realised exactly forty years later.

On 18th December, 1884, Archbishop Croke, then the idol of the Irish race, wrote consenting to become first Patron of the new Association. His vigorous letter, which has been aptly called the charter of the G.A.A., is printed elsewhere in this Supplement.

The second meeting of the Association was held in the Victoria Hotel, Cork, on December 27, 1884, the Mayor-elect, Alderman Madden, presiding. Cusack announced with satisfaction that William O'Brien had agreed to set aside half-a-column a week of his paper to G.A.A. notes. We have advanced since then!

In January, 1885, the Association adopted its first code of rules for hurling, football, weight-throwing, jumping, running, walking, and cycling. The Association was firmly established within six months of the first meeting in Thurles, and branches (they were not then called clubs) spread like wildfire all over the country.

THE FIRST MATCHES.

There were difficulties. The sporting Press was hostile. The Irish Cyclists' Association's leaders made vulgar personal attacks on the promoters of the new body. There was indiscipline, often accompanied by violence, at early G.A.A. games, and matches were often unfinished because of disputes.

The first football match under the G.A.A. rules was played on February 15, 1885, between Callan and Kilkenny.

The First President

MAURICE DAVIN.

PAST PRESIDENTS.

1884-1887—Maurice Davin, Carrick-on-Suir.
1887-1888—E. Bennett, Ennis.
1888-1889—Maurice Davin, Carrick-on-Suir.
1889-1895—P. J. Kelly, Loughrea.
1895-1898—Frank B. Dineen, Dublin.
1898-1901—Michael Deering, Cork
1901-1921—James Nowlan, Kilkenny.
1921-1924—Dan McCarthy, Dublin.
1924-1926—P. D. Breen, Castlebridge.
1926-1928—W. P. Clifford, Limerick.
1928-1932—Sean Ryan, Dublin.
1932 ——Sean McCarthy, Cork.

At the beginning hurling and football teams consisted of 21 aside.

In these early matches only goals counted. Later points were introduced; and there was what was called a "forfeit point" when a defender put the ball over his own end-line, whereas, a 50 yards or a 70 yards free would now be given.

Wrestling was also allowed, and not prohibited until 1886.

CUSACK AS GOALMAN.

In these days the players often wore coloured caps. Michael Cusack himself was the goalman inc one of the first hurling matches played in Dublin.

By the summer of 1885 scores of matches and sports meetings under the new body were being held all over the country. Mostly they were week-day events; frequently there were tournaments going on for two or three days, teams often playing twice on the same day. At one Tipperary tournament in 1887 no fewer than 21 teams took part, the matches being played off in two adjoining fields.

FIRST CONFLICT IN TRALEE.

The first athletic conflict between the new Association and the old Irish Amateur Athletic Association took place in Tralee on June 17, 1885. The Kerry County Athletic and Cricket Club, affiliated to the I.A.A.A., had fixed its sports for that day.

The Kerry Gaels (the late Austin Stack's father was prominent amongst the promoters) fixed a hurling, football, and athletic meeting for the same day. The I.A.A.A. gathering was almost boycotted; 10,000 attended the G.A.A. meeting.

On October 6, 1885, the first athletic championships under the G.A.A. were held at Tramore. Horse races were included in the day's programme.

In the year 1886 the new Association swept through the country. That year, too, the dispute with the I.A.A.A. was settled on the basis of mutual recognition.

Speeches and band parades were features associated with the matches and tournaments of that year. In May of the same year the old puritanical penal code was invoked in a prosecution against some Sligo Gaels for playing handball on Sundays.

CHANGES IN PLAYING RULES.

In 1886 several changes were made in the rules. Wrestling and handi-grips between players were prohibited. The number of players was to be "not less than 14 nor more than 21."

Five overs were allowed to count as a point. Beside the goal posts point posts were introduced. Points were to count only if no goals or an equal

number of goals were scored, so that a team scoring one goal won from a team scoring 40 or 50 points but no goal. Balls going into touch were to be thrown in by the umpires or referee.

KNEE-BREECHES FOR PLAYERS

Dress for players was prescribed as "knee-breeches and stockings, and shoes or boots." The normal duration of a game was fixed at one hour, "unless the teams otherwise agreed."

During the same year three other important things happened. Michael Cusack's official connection with the Association temporarily ceased. In September the first rule debarring Rugby players was passed. County Committees were formed, Wexford having given the lead in December, 1885.

A TURBULENT CONVENTION.

The year 1887 was a remarkable one in the Association's history. The first All-Ireland championships were held, but only twelve counties — Clare, Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Dublin, Meath, Louth, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Wexford, and Galway—participated. The winners, by the way, did not get their medals for a quarter of a century.

In these early championships only individual clubs could take part, namely, the county champions; they had not the right to select players from other clubs in their county.

Maurice Davin resigned from the Association owing to differences.

An internal struggle went on between the physical force party and the constitutional politicians for control of the Association. Members of the Royal Irish Constabulary were excluded from membership, but the hostility towards Rugby was not very strong, as was shown by the fact that the Association granted permission to two Tipperary clubs—the Rosanna Rovers and the Commercials—to allow some of their members to continue playing Rugby for a few weeks until the Munster Rugby Cup had been decided.

In the same year appeared the first number of the first weekly paper devoted mainly to Gaelic games, the "Celtic Times," edited by Michael Cusack. A few months later "The Gael," an official organ devoted to the same purpose, appeared. Both were short-lived.

On 9th November, 1887, the third annual Convention of the Association was held in the Courthouse, Thurles. About 1,000 delegates attended, special trains being run for their convenience. It was the most stormy convention in the history of the Association, fists and sticks being used by opposing parties—the physical force party and the constitutionalists—and the meeting ultimately broke up into two rival conventions.

THE AMERICAN MISSION.

In 1888 the Convention "recommended" referees to provide themselves with whistles. The "forfeit points" were abolished, and the free kicks or free pucks, now 50 yards and 70 yards, were introduced.

The same year was notable as the only one in which the All-Ireland championships were not played out. They were abandoned because of the "American Invasion."

This was an ambitious scheme to send Irish athletes on tour to America. In September, 1888, 48 athletes and hurlers, the cream of Ireland's champions, left for New York. They included such famous men as J. S. Mitchel, of Emly; Pat Davin, and T. J. O'Mahony, "the Roscarbery steam-engine," and were unquestionably the most formidable team of athletes that ever assembled together before the Olympic Games.

They were accompanied by Maurice Davin and Joe Whelan, now Day Overseer of Independent Newspapers printing staff. (A special article by Mr. Whelan describing the "American Invasion" will be found in this publication.)

The teams performed at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and elsewhere. Unfortunately, owing to the Presidential election campaign then going on, the tour was a financial failure, and a projected trip to Canada was abandoned. Michael Davitt advanced £450 out of his own pocket to meet the deficit.

On 31st October, 1888, the Invasion team sailed for home—leaving 17 of their number behind to settle in America and sow the seeds of America's athletic greatness.

THE PERIOD OF DECLINE.

The year 1890 was the beginning of a period of decline which lasted for several years. A waning of the early enthusiasm, emigration, and the Parnellite split were all contributory causes.

In 1890 only seven counties were represented at the Convention.

In 1892 there were only 220 clubs where there had been 1,000 four years before. The same year's hurling championship was played out between three counties.

Three important changes were made in the rules in 1892. The maximum number constituting a team was reduced from 21 to 17. The county champions were given the right to select players from any club in the county for the All-Ireland championships. Five points were declared to be the equivalent of a goal.

It was in 1893 that the Association reached low water level. Only three counties were represented at the Convention; only five took part in the championship. The rule debarring policemen was deleted. The All-Ireland hurling championship consisted of two matches, Cork beating Limerick in the first round and then beating Kilkenny in the final.

The 1893 finals (which were not played until 1894) were both decided on the same day in the Phoenix Park. They had been fixed for the Ashtown Trotting Grounds, and a thousand people paid for admission. The players, however, decided that the ground was unsuitable, and they removed the goal posts across to the Park. Cork defeated Kilkenny in hurling, but Wexford were awarded the unfinished football final, as the Cork players left the ground as a protest against rough play.

BRITISH ARMY HURLERS.

In 1894 the revival set in. In March of that same year a hurling match under the G.A.A. rules was played in Dublin between the soldiers of the 18th Royal Irish, then stationed in the Curragh (mostly Tipperary men), and the Munster Fusiliers, then stationed in Dublin (mostly Cork and Limerick men). The Munsters won.

The year 1895 was one of further progress. The value of a goal was reduced from 5 points to 3. The rule excluding Rugby players was repealed, and the Council ruled that a member was free to play any game he liked. During the same year military bands were in attendance at several G.A.A. sports meetings.

During the ensuing years the G.A.A. made further strides, its position in the life of the nation being now firmly established. Space permits only of mention of outstanding events from year to year.

In 1902 the rule debarring those who played foreign games was made compulsory in every county.

The next year, by a majority of one, its enforcement was again made optional with each county. Police, soldiers, sailors, and militiamen were excluded from membership the same year.

It was for the 1903 championship that Kerry and Kildare met three times in the series of matches that marked the beginning of the new epoch of scientific football.

The year 1903 was also made notable by the adoption of hurling rules for ladies—camogie, or camoguidheacht, as it was at first called. The name was invented by "Torna," Professor Tadhg O'Donoghue, Cork.

CONVENTION IN DUBLIN.

In 1909 the Annual Convention, which had hitherto been held in Thurles, was transferred to Dublin. The championship finals, which had for many years been behind-hand—sometimes they were two years in arrears—were brought up to date. An effort was made to inaugurate College championships, but the plan did not fructify for another year or two.

The chief event of 1910 was the abolition of the point side-posts, and the introduction of the present-day scoring area.

HURLERS IN BELGIUM.

Hurling teams from Tipperary and Cork went to Belgium in August in connection with the Pan-Celtic Congress and played exhibition matches at Brussels, Malines, and Fontenoy. The matches attracted little support, and were a heavy failure financially.

In 1911 the first Irish-American hurling team visited Ireland and played six matches against the leading county teams.

TEAMS REDUCED TO 15.

Two years later, in 1913, a change of great importance was made when the number of players on a team was reduced from 17 to 15. The results have amply justified the change. The late Harry Boland, himself a fine hurler, moved the change.

The Kerry and Louth drawn game for the final of the Croke Memorial competition, played at Jones's Road on 4th May, 1913, was the first match under the new rule, and a brilliant game ended in a draw, the replay of which—won by Kerry—drew a crowd estimated at 40,000.

In December, 1913, with the moneys accumulated from the Croke Memorial competitions in hurling and football, the G.A.A. purchased for £3,500 the grounds at Jones's Road, Dublin, where the All-Ireland finals had been played for years, and the ground became for all time Croke Park.

A sum of £2,000 had to be borrowed from the banks to complete the purchase. At that time none of the three stands now on the grounds had been erected. After the purchase the G.A.A. had itself registered as a limited liability company.

Side-line seats were introduced to Croke Park in 1915.

PERIOD OF INSURRECTION.

Following the insurrection of 1916, hundreds of well-known G.A.A. players and officials, including the President of the Association, Alderman Nowlan, of Kilkenny, were deported and imprisoned by the British. The G.A.A. was proclaimed an illegal association.

The Great War did not affect the G.A.A., whose games during the period enjoyed unprecedented popularity.

In 1918 the British prohibited the playing of G.A.A. matches, except under permit. No permit was ever applied for, and on 4th August, 1918, close upon 1,000 Gaelic matches were arranged all over the country in defiance of the ban. The matches duly took place, and the British, refusing to accept the challenge, allowed their ban and permits to become a dead letter.

A TRAGIC SUNDAY.

During the Black-and-Tan War in 1920-21 the games suffered a set-back, because a large proportion of G.A.A. players and officials were in arms or on the run, and the championships were abandoned until after the Truce with the British.

On Sunday, November 21, 1920, while 10,000 people were watching a football match between Tipperary and Dublin in Croke Park, British troops and police suddenly surrounded the ground, and, without warning, opened fire upon the crowd from aeroplanes, armoured cars, machine-guns, and rifles.

One of the Tipperary players, Michael Hogan (in whose memory the Hogan Stand is named) was shot dead on the playing pitch. Nearly a score of spectators were shot dead and scores were wounded. This, the most cold-blooded outrage in the history of British atrocities in Ireland, drove the Irish nation into a frenzy of fury.

CONTROL OF ATHLETICS.

In May, 1922, following negotiations between the I.A.A.A. and the G.A.A., a new body, the National Athletic and Cycling Association, was established, and to it both bodies surrendered control of athletics. Thus, after 38 years, unity in Irish athletics was secured and the G.A.A. was free to devote all its energies to hurling, football, and handball.

The Civil War, 1922-23, gave another set-back to the G.A.A., but in the summer of 1923 progress was resumed and arrears were wiped off, four finals being played off that same year.

The exclusion rule directed against players of Rugby, Association, and other foreign games was reviewed at several Conventions. In 1924 it was retained by 54 votes to 32. The following year the majority for its retention was 69 to 23.

In 1925 the National Leagues—inter-county competitions in both hurling and football—were introduced.

In 1926 the then All-Ireland hurling champions, Tipperary, went on tour to America, where they played seven matches against Irish-American hurlers, winning each by a large margin.

In recent years the G.A.A. has marched from triumph to triumph. The All-Ireland finals of 1933 attracted record crowds, the attendance and receipts at the hurling final being 45,156 and £3,972, and at the football final 45,188 and £4,037. Punctuality, discipline, and faultless field arrangements are now the features of an organisation which has no counterpart anywhere else in the world.

Called the First Meeting

MICHAEL CUSACK.

THE FOUNDERS.

The following were the seven men who constituted the first meeting at Hayes's Hotel, Thurles, at which the G.A.A. was founded on 1st November, 1884.

Maurice Davin, Carrick-on-Suir.

Michael Cusack, Dublin.

John Wyse-Power, Naas.

John McKay, Cork.

P. J. O'Ryan, Solicitor, Callan and Thurles.

J. K. Bracken, Templemore.

St. George McCarthy Templemore.

His Eminence JOSEPH CARDINAL MacRORY

Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Born at Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone	1861	Consecrated Bishop of Down and Connor	1915
Ordained	1885	Translated to Archbishopric of Armagh	1928
Professor Maynooth College	1889-1915	Created Cardinal	1929
Vice-President Maynooth College	1912-1915	Papal Legate at the Laying of the Foundation Stone of Liverpool Cathedral	1933

CARDINAL PRIMATE'S INSPIRING MESSAGE

ARA COELI,
ARMAGH.
March 6, 1934

To the Editor of
The Irish Independent.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I am very glad to know that you intend to publish a Souvenir Number in connexion with the Golden Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association; and I am sorry that I have no time to give you more than a few lines.

It is to be hoped that the Jubilee celebration will be a great and unqualified success, for seldom is success so well deserved. The Gaelic Athletic Association and its kindred Organizations have done a great work for Ireland's soul. Long ago, when I was growing up in Tyrone, Tyrone of the O'Neills, the real spirit of Irish Nationalism was all but dead even on the hillsides; while in the planted plains and valleys it had long been supplanted by a spirit that was alien. Conditions in this respect may not have been quite so bad in other parts; but all over the country the Famine and the collapse of the Young Ireland Movement had so dazed the nation and crushed its spirit that for several decades afterwards there was no recovery. Whatever spirit remained, was manifested in connexion with politics and the Land Question. Gloom and apathy hung like a heavy cloud especially over the rural areas; and the National Games, language, music and dances were fast disappearing where they had not already disappeared. Only the dry bones of Irish Nationalism remained.

It was in these gloomy and dispiriting circumstances that the brave Michael Cusack and the illustrious Archbishop Croke launched, fifty years ago, the Gaelic Athletic Association. Just as in the famous Vision of Bones in the Book of Ezechiel the Prophet cried out: *"Come, spirit from the four winds and blow upon these slain and let them live again,"* so the immortal Founders of the G.A.A. invoked the National spirit from the four winds of Ireland, and once more the result has been nothing less than a resurrection. The dry bones have been clothed with flesh and quickened again with vigorous, pulsating life. This is the miracle, nothing less than a resurrection, that will be commemorated on Easter Sunday in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association. It will be a celebration that will redound to the honour not only of the G.A.A., but of the Gaelic League and all the kindred Associations. May the celebration be worthy of the occasion.

The Gaelic Movement has still a good deal of work before it; but what it has already achieved is abundant guarantee for the future. I hope it will never lend countenance to anything that might impair the modesty of our youth. It is fine to have our ancient games and dances; but it is finer still for God and for Ireland to have fresh and unimpaired the traditional modesty of the Irish maiden. I believe that those at the head of the Movement will always come to realize this; and hence I hope that a Movement that has done so much to brighten life and make the past live again will continue to go on from success to success.

I remain, Dear Mr. Editor,
Yours faithfully,

+Joseph Cardinal MacRory

His Grace Most Rev. JOHN M. HARTY, D.D.,

Archbishop of Cashel

Born at Murroe, Co. Limerick	1867	Professor Maynooth College	1895-1913
Educated Thurles, Maynooth, Rome.		Consecrated Archbishop of Cashel	1913
Ordained	1894	Is the third successive Archbishop of Cashel to be a Patron of the G.A.A.	

THEIR NAMES WILL LIVE IN GAELIC HISTORY

PLAYERS WHO HAVE WON DUAL TITLES

FIVE HOLDERS OF THE HIGHEST HONOURS

ROLL OF FAME

WEXFORD	2
DUBLIN	1
KILKENNY	1
CORK	1

Greatest of All

FRANK BURKE,
Dublin.

A native of Kildare (and now Headmaster of St. Enda's College), is the only man who ever won more than one All-Ireland medal in both Hurling and Football.

Won All-Ireland Football medals with Dublin in 1921, 1922, and 1923. Won All-Ireland Hurling medals with Dublin in 1917 and 1920.

Played in two other finals which Dublin lost—the Football finals of 1920 and 1924.

Wexford's Two

SEAN O'KENNEDY,
Wexford.

Native of New Ross. Has three All-Ireland Football medals (1915, 1916, and 1917) and one Hurling (1910)—all won for his native county.

During years 1913-1917 he played in five successive All-Ireland Football finals, three times (1914-1917) as captain.

In 1907 and 1908 he played on the Leinster Selection in Hurling and Football in the Railway Shield competition.

P. J. MACKEY,
Wexford.

Native of New Ross. Has one All-Ireland medal more than his townsman, O'Kennedy.

Was on Wexford team that won All-Ireland Hurling Championship 1910. In 1913 he played his first All-Ireland Football final and lost.

In 1914 he was again on the losing side in the final, but in 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918 he played with Wexford when they won four successive All-Ireland finals.

Kilkenny's One

DR. PIERCE GRACE,
Kilkenny-Dublin.

Native Tullaroan, Kilkenny (and now R.M.S., Portlaoighise Mental Hospital.

Has three All-Ireland Hurling medals won with Kilkenny in 1911, 1912, and 1913.

Won All-Ireland Football medal with Dublin during his student days in 1908.

Is a brother of the late Jack Grace of Kickhams fame, and of Dick Grace of Tullaroan.

In Eleven Finals

The late Jack Grace, of the famous Tullaroan family, left five All-Ireland Football medals when he died in his early thirties in 1915. By rare hard luck just missed his Hurling medal.

THE LATE JACK GRACE
Kilkenny-Dublin.

Held All-Ireland Football medals for Dublin for 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, and 1909. Also played in 1904 final.

Played in five All-Ireland Hurling finals, yet never got a medal. The first, in 1902, Dublin drew with Cork, but lost on the replay. The third, in 1906, Dublin lost. The fourth, in 1908, was a draw, but Dublin again lost on the replay.

Family Heirlooms

Which of the great Gaelic families has the largest number of All-Ireland medals?

The three Doyles of Mooncoin (Kilkenny) have 16; the three Graces of Tullaroan (Kilkenny) have 14.

See Special Article on another page.

Munster's Only

Of Blackrock and the Lees. Only Munsterman who ever won dual titles.

Holds All-Ireland Football medal for 1911. In three other finals, 1901, 1906, and 1907, two of which were lost by single point.

Played in three Hurling finals, 1903, 1905, and 1912. The first he won; the second he won only to lose on a replay ordered by Central Council, and the third he lost by one point.

Popular and successful business man in Cork. A keen follower and generous supporter Gaelic games and of coursing. Last month his dog, Never Say Die, won Irish Coursing Derby at Clonmel.

W. MACKESSY
Cork.

Corkman's Hard Luck

Sprinter, hurler, footballer, and referee. Was denied dual honours by hard luck. On Cork Hurling team that defeated Kilkenny for 1905 final, but replay ordered and Kilkenny won by 13 points.

Played in 1907 Football final, when Cork lost to Dublin. Won first and only All-Ireland Football medal in 1911, when Cork beat Antrim.

Is a dual medallist in another sense. In 1909 won Long Puck Championship (93 yds.), and in 1910 won 220 Yards Championship of Ireland.

Played with Keatings and Erin's Hope in Dublin before returning to Cork.

J. A. BECKETT, B.A.,
Cork.

Six Men—36 Medals

Only six men in Ireland have each won six All-Ireland medals.

Five of these are Kerrymen, for Football, and one a Kilkennyman, for Hurling.

See Special Article on another page.

Mr. SEAN McCARTHY, B.A.,

President of the Gaelic Athletic Association

A prominent worker in the Irish Ireland and National Movements since his youth. A National Teacher by profession. Became Chairman of the Cork County Board of the G.A.A.; Chairman of the Munster Council and is President of the Association since 1932. Took his Diploma in Education in 1927 and his B.A. in 1928.

Final That Was Played Three Times

Kilkenny and Cork Make Hurling History

THE 1931 Hurling Final, in which Cork defeated Kilkenny on a second replay, was the most memorable in the annals of Gaeldom.

To the enthusiasm aroused by these splendid displays may be largely attributed the growing popularity of the game during the past two years, as evidenced in the record attendances at the 1932 and 1933 finals, won by Kilkenny from Clare and Limerick, respectively.

The men who took part in the 1931 final merit a place in any record relating to the progress of the G.A.A., and we give hereunder the names of those who appeared in the second replay, with connecting references to the earlier games.

CORK.—E. Coughlan (capt.), J. Coughlan (goal), E. O'Connell, J. Hurley, P. O'Grady, P. Aherne, M. Aherne, P. Delea (Blackrock) M. Madden (Redmonds), P. Collins (Glen Rovers), D. B. Murphy, J. O'Regan (Eire Og), M. O'Connell (St. Finbars), T. Barry (Carrigtwohill), W. Clancy (Mallow).

G. Garrett (Blackrock) went on as a substitute for Madden, injured in the first replay, and for O'Grady, injured in the second replay. Madden is now in London where he retains his connection with the G.A.A.

After winning the 1931 Championship, E. Coughlan and P. Aherne (who assisted in bringing the 1919 title to Cork) had five All-Ireland medals each; Hurley, M. Aherne, E. O'Connell, Delea, Murphy, and O'Regan four each; O'Grady, Madden, M. O'Connell, and Barry three each; Collins and J. Coughlan, two each; and Clancy and Garrett, one each.

KILKENNY.—J. Dermody (goal), P. Walsh, P. Phelan (Tullaroan), P. Larkin, M. Larkin (James Stephens), D. Treacy (Carrickshock), P. O'Reilly, D. Dunne, P. Byrne, E. Byrne (Dicksboro), E. Doyle, T. O'Carroll, J. Duggan (Mooncoin) T. Leahy (Urlingford), Matty Power (Garda, Dublin).

Kilkenny played without their Captain, "Lorry" Meagher (Tullaroan), who was unable to turn out owing to injuries received in the first replay. He was replaced by T. Leahy (now attached to Young Irelands in Dublin), who had come on as a substitute when P. Larkin retired injured in the first replay. For the second replay Treacy replaced W. Dalton (Carrickshock), and J. Leahy (Urlingford) went on as a substitute when Duggan retired injured. Duggan had come on as a substitute when R. Morrissey (Mooncoin) retired injured from the drawn game, and retained his place. For the replays P. Walsh replaced M. White (Tullaroan), who had played in the drawn game.

Matty Power, who has since won the 1932 and 1933 Hurling Championships with Kilkenny, also won the 1922 Championship with Kilkenny, and 1927 Championship with Dublin.

SUPERB HURLING.

The first replay of this historic final (1931) was admittedly one of the best hurling exhibitions ever witnessed.

Commenting on the game, the "Irish Independent" stated: "From start to finish it was man to man; hard knocks were given and taken, but no friendships were broken, for the playing of the game and the spirit in which it was played were to count in the victory that Fortune decreed should be delayed to another day. For their splendid restraint when nerves were keyed to the highest tension, and hotter tempers might have given way, the hurlers of Cork and Kilkenny earned for themselves a lasting tribute. It was in all respects a glorious exhibition of Ireland's national pastime, and will be a happy and abiding memory with those who had the good fortune to be present, whether as impartial spectators or ardent supporters of the contending teams. The cup and medals have not yet been won, but the Gaelic Athletic Association has scored a signal victory, and the men of Cork and Kilkenny—worthy custodians of a proud tradition—have lifted hurling to a plane far higher than it ever reached before.

There is nothing like 'OVALTINE' for Quality *and* Value

THE world-wide success of delicious "Ovaltine" is a triumph of quality and value. It offers the highest possible health-giving quality at the lowest possible price. "Ovaltine" is therefore the daily beverage of countless thousands of persons who realise that ***quality is the only true economy***.

There is definitely nothing like "Ovaltine." Imitations are made to ***look*** like "Ovaltine"—but there are vitally important differences.

"Ovaltine" does not contain any Household Sugar. Furthermore, it does not contain Starch. Nor does it contain Chocolate, or a large percentage of Cocoa.

"Ovaltine" provides, in a correctly balanced and easily digested form, the rich nourishment obtained from the finest qualities of malt extract, creamy milk and new-laid eggs. The malt extract is specially prepared in the "Ovaltine" Factory from selected barley. The "Ovaltine" Egg and Dairy Farms were established to ensure the exceptionally high quality of the milk and eggs.

For all these reasons "Ovaltine" stands in a class by itself. It is definitely without equal for maintaining vigorous health all day and for ensuring sound, natural sleep all night. Reject substitutes—there is nothing "just as good."

Sold at 1/2, 2/1 and 3/6 per tin.

P.998

A Belfast Camogie Team

The Queen's University Camogie team photographed at Amiens Street Station, Dublin, on their way to Cork, where they played U.C.C. in the Ashbourne Cup this year.

Coṁairle o'n gCraoiḃín Aoiḃinn

Buḋ maiṫ liom comġáirdeaċas ó ċroiḋe do ḋéanaṁ le Cumann na gCleas Lúiṫ ar ṡlánú caogad bliaḋan dóiḃ.

Dar liom-sa, ní'l aċt aon ċumann eile i nÉirinn do rinne an méid agus do rinne Cumann na gCleas Lúiṫ ċun náisiún do ḋéanaṁ de'n tír seo. An cumann eile, baḋ é Connraḋ na Gaeḋilge é.

Ċun Gaeḋeal maiṫ do ḋéanaṁ ní mór don Ċorp agus do'n Aigne dul le ċéile. Bíoḋ an Connraḋ ag obair ar aigne na ndaoine agus an Cumann ag obair ar a gcuid corp.

Ar an ádḃar sin, is ar láiṁ a ċéile buḋ ċóir dóiḃ ḃeiṫ ag obair, agus is mór m' iongantas naċ dtáinig siad le ċéile i bfad níos dlúiṫe. Ní ar son Gaeḋilge, ar fad, ná ar son cleasaiġeaċta, ar fad, atá siad gnóṫaċ, aċt ar son náisiúntaċta mar an gcéadna.

Cad is comarṫaí náisiúntaċta ann? Is iad na rudaí a ḋeiġiltear an náisiún so amaċ ó náisiúnaiḃ eile, teanga (insan ċéad-áit), cleasa, ceól, spórt-anna, rinncí, agus a leiṫéid. An measann éinne go mbeaḋ an dúṫraċt céadna ag gabáil dom' ṡean-ċaraid Míċeál Cíosóg aċt go raiḃ fios aige, in a ċroiḋe, nuair ċuir sé an Cumann ar bun, go raiḃ sé ag bualaḋ buille ar son an náisiúin.

Tá sé beag-naċ dáċad bliaḋan ó soin gur iarr mé go géar ar Ċumann na gCleas Lúiṫ i gConnaċtaiḃ-Ṡiar a ráḋ le na ballaiḃ, i nGaillim agus i Muiġ Eó, úsáid do ḃaint as a dteangaiḋ féin ar páirc an ċomórtais, óir do ḃí an teanga ag gaċ aon aca an uair sin, agus níor ṫuig mé riaṁ cad fáṫ do labraidís teanga na Sacranaċ 'na measg féin.

Aċt buiḋeaċas le Dia tá aṫruġaḋ ag teaċt agus beiḋ súil againn feasta le hÉirinn naċ mbeiḋ 'na cúige de ṫír eile, aċt 'na hÉirinn neaṁspleaḋaiġ, le n-a teangaiḋ féin, le n-a cleasannaiḃ féin, le n-a ceól féin, le n-a rinnceannaiḃ féin—in aon focal aṁáin le h-Éirinn a ḃéas in a NÁISIÚN.

An Craoiḃín

Message from Dr. Douglas Hyde Patron of the G.A.A.

Mr. PADRAIG O'KEEFFE

General Secretary of the G.A.A., and Manager Croke Park

Like the President of the Association is a native of Cork. An active Volunteer during the Black and Tan war, he was captured and imprisoned. On his release he became Secretary to the Cork Co. Board. Player, referee and administrator, he has been the organising genius during the record-breaking epoch of the Association since he became General Secretary in 1929. He is an enthusiastic worker for the language revival, and has been a pioneer in promoting the games in schools and colleges.

THE TRIUMPHAL PROGRESS OF GAELIC GAMES

Survey of the Last Ten Years

THE last decade has been one of continued progress and prosperity in the G.A.A.

The games are now more widely played than ever before, and while still aiming towards perfection, their control leaves less room for complaint. Punctuality has become a feature, and objections and appeals are steadily diminishing.

Minor competitions for boys under 18 years have been added to the Senior and Junior championships. Hurling and Football Leagues have been introduced, and we have also the Interprovincial championships for the Railway Cups, the finals on St. Patrick's Day offering an annual attraction that is eagerly awaited.

As compared with ten years ago, commendable headway has been made in the colleges and schools.

With improvement in every direction patronage has been growing, and in 1933 we find Croke Park unable to accommodate the crowd that travelled to see the All-Ireland Hurling Final.

The G.A.A. is now faced with the problem of extending its accommodation, not alone at Croke Park, but through the country. There is a demand everywhere for playing fields.

LESSONS OF EXPERIENCE.

While appraising the work of the past ten years, its lessons should not go unheeded.

Through stress and storm the G.A.A. has preserved a united front without compromising its principles. In recent years the youth of Ireland, however their opinions might differ in other ways, were rallied under its banner in common cause for the welfare of the nation.

In 1924 Ireland had emerged from the war for independence and the civil strife. In the struggle with the British the work of the G.A.A. had been interrupted. The threads were taken up on the declaration of the Truce in the summer of 1921 only to be broken again a year later.

Memories were bitter then; the aftermath remained. Despite the difficulty of the times, the G.A.A. carried on, and earnest effort had its reward when the programme was brought up to date in 1925.

Leading off with a list of championship winners—All-Ireland and Provincial in hurling and football—in each case I propose to set down the outstanding events in each of the ten years, 1924-'33, as I find them in records at hand or as they come to mind.

1924.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Dublin. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary. J.F.—Kerry.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Dublin. S.F.—Dublin
J.H.—Offaly. J.F.—Longford.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Tipperary. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary. J.F.—Kerry.

CONNACHT.

S.F.—Mayo. J.F.—Mayo.
S.H. and J.H.—Galway.

ULSTER.

S.F.—Cavan. J.F.—Cavan.
H.—Antrim.

There were three All-Ireland finals (Senior) played in 1924. Galway defeated Limerick in September for the 1923 Hurling Championship, and three months later parted with the title to Dublin (Kickhams' selection). It was the first and only Hurling championship won by Galway. Mick Gill (Garda) was on the winning side in both cases—with Galway in September and with Dublin in December.

In the 1923 Football final, played in September, 1924, Dublin defeated Kerry. This was the first appearance by Kerry in a final since they had lost to Wexford in 1915. It was the third consecutive championship to be won by Dublin.

Kerry defeated Dublin in the 1924 final, played in 1925.

For the first time the annual Congress (1924) on Easter Sunday was held at the Croke Park offices, a few years later found to be inadequate for the purpose. Mr. Dan McCarthy, T.D. (Dublin), retired from the chair after three years, and Mr. P. D. Breen (Wexford) was elected President.

By 54 votes to 32 a motion from Cork for the abolition of the foreign games rules was defeated.

A motion from Tipperary was carried that players competing in Provincial and All-Ireland finals and semi-finals wear numbers, and that programmes giving names and numbers of teams be distributed.

There was trouble during the year when Kerry (S.F.), Limerick (S.H.) and Cork (J.H.) teams refused to play in the 1923 finals until prisoners in jail since the civil strife were released. The Chairman of the Central Council (Mr. Breen) took a firm stand on the rules providing for suspension, but the difficulty was overcome by a special Congress held in August waiving the penalties and recommending to the Council to proceed with the finals, the view being taken that the Association had been passing through abnormal times and could now afford to have an amnesty.

JAMES NOWLAN'S DEATH.

The death took place in Dublin in June of Mr. J. Nowlan (formerly of Kilkenny), who had been President of the G.A.A. from 1901 to 1921.

Mr. R O'Keeffe (Laoighis) was elected Chairman of the Leinster Council in 1924 (succeeding Mr. Breen), and has since held the office.

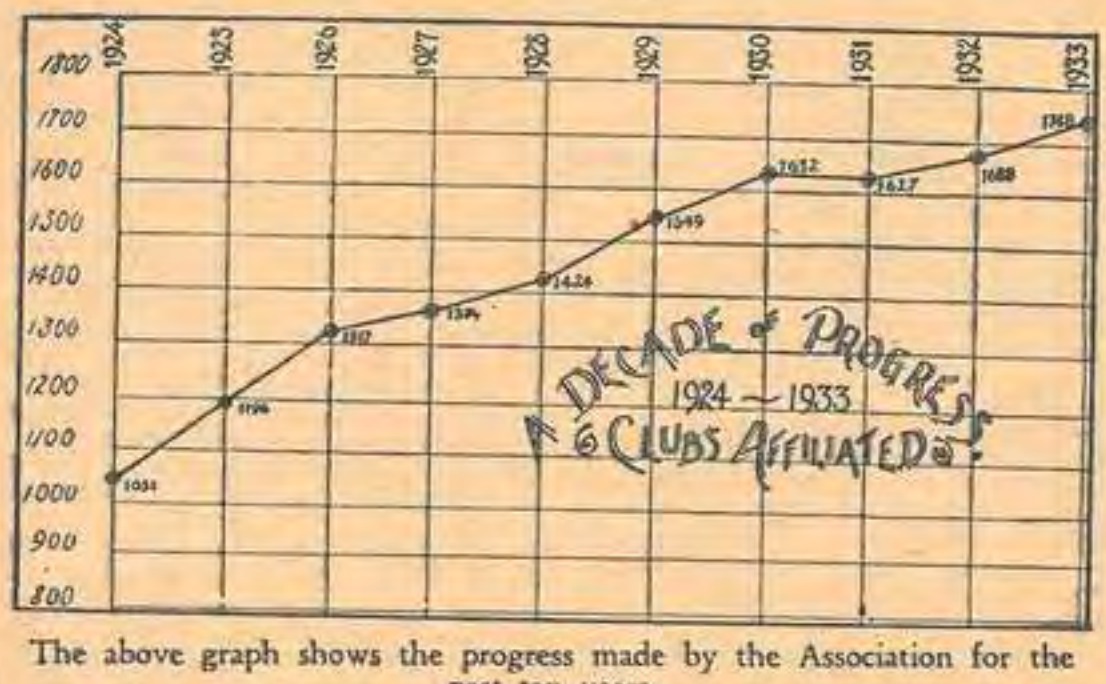
1925.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Tipperary. S.F.—Galway.
J.H.—Cork. J.F.—Louth.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Kilkenny. S.F.—Wexford.
J.H.—Dublin. J.F.—Louth.



The above graph shows the progress made by the Association for the past ten years.

Members of the Tipperary Hurling team Chrysler Building, New York, during their successful U.S.A. tour in 1931. The Cup is one they brought home and is inscribed as follows:—"Presented by Mayor James J. Walker. World's Championship Cup—Ireland v. America, 1931. Dan Breen (Promoter of U.S. Tour. 1931); Con Neenan (Manager); Peter Landy (Sec.); Tom Whitelaw (Asst.); Tom Armitage (Coach)."

Thurles Club, who were All-Ireland champions in 1930, travelled as Ireland, and so are in custody of this great trophy, which stands about 3½ feet high.

Big Increase in the Number of Clubs

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Tipperary. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Cork. J.F.—Clare.

CONNACHT.

S.F.—Galway. J.F.—Mayo.
S.H. and J.H.—Galway.

ULSTER.

S.F.—Cavan. J.F.—Armagh.
H.—Antrim.

Kerry defeated Dublin in the 1924 Football final, played in April, 1925. Attendance (28,844) and receipts (£2,563) were quoted as a record.

Tipperary defeated Galway in the 1925 Hurling final, played on the appointed date in September.

There was no football final played for 1925. Kerry defeated Cavan by a point in the semi-final, but both teams were disqualified. In the second semi-final Mayo defeated Wexford, but were subsequently beaten by Galway in the Connacht final, and Galway were declared champions by the Central Council.

At the 1925 Congress Mr. Breen (Wexford) was re-elected President by 56 votes to 45 for Mr. Clifford (Limerick).

A proposal to start National Leagues in hurling and football in addition to the championships was approved.

A motion to give players residing away the option of declaring for their native counties was moved by Mr. B. C. Fay (Cavan) and carried by a big majority. This has since come to be known as the "non-resident rule."

HELPING THE NORTH.

Congress warmly supported a motion from Antrim that the Central Council take practical steps to help the Gaels of that county in purchasing and equipping a playing ground in Belfast.

It was decided that County Conventions be held before January 31 each year.

When it was proposed (and defeated) that when Dublin are in the semi-final or final of the All-Ireland Championships the venue be other than Croke Park, Mr. Dick Fitzgerald (Kerry), moving a direct negative, said the finals should be played in the Capital.

1926.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary. J.F.—Armagh.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Kilkenny. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Wexford. J.F.—Dublin.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary. J.F.—Kerry.

CONNACHT.

S.F.—Galway. J.F.—Sligo.
S.H. and J.H.—Galway.

ULSTER.

S.F.—Cavan. J.F.—Armagh.
H.—Antrim.

Looking back, even now, after the thrilling hurling final of 1931 and the wonderful records of 1933, I regard 1926 as a distinctive year in this decade of progress. Outstanding features were the two terrific struggles between Cork and Tipperary at Thurles for the Munster Hurling Championship and the drawn game and replay between Kerry and Kildare in the Football Final.

Tipperary, as 1925 champions, had toured America and defeated Limerick in the Munster semi-final on their return. The Munster final was first fixed for Cork, but had to be abandoned after 25 minutes' play, the ground being unable to accommodate the crowd, who encroached on the pitch. The refixture was made for Thurles, where there was again an immense crowd to witness one of the most exciting games in hurling history. The scenes of remarkable enthusiasm that centred round this drawn game were repeated in intensified form two weeks later, when, again at Thur-

les, Tipperary went down after another glorious struggle.

Meanwhile, the Central Council, by a majority, had postponed the All-Ireland final. Kilkenny had defeated Dublin in a good game at New Ross, and after winning the Leinster Championship, had scored over Galway. The Kilkenny men had been in training, but their arrangements were upset by the postponement, and they disappointed against Cork in the final.

Before reaching the Football final, Kerry had defeated Cavan, and Kildare had won from Galway. It was on a replay in the earlier rounds that Kildare had won from Dublin. Memories of the famous 1903 final were recalled, and the meeting of Kerry and Kildare evoked widespread interest. Record crowds came to Croke Park for the drawn game and replay, and, as after the 1903 final, football gained in popularity.

ULSTER'S FIRST TITLE.

Although the final in which they defeated Dublin was not played until 1927, it may be noted here that in winning the Junior football title Armagh brought the first All-Ireland championship to Ulster.

Up to 1925 the Ulster hurling champions had played in the Senior All-Ireland series, but as from 1926 they were graded junior, and still play in the secondary division.

At the 1926 Congress Mr. Clifford (Limerick) was elected President by 68 votes to 55 for Mr. Breen (outgoing).

The Interprovincial Championships (Railway Cups) were initiated and the semi-finals played towards the close of the year, when the defeat of Leinster by Connacht in football at Ballinasloe brought surprise. The finals were not played until St. Patrick's Day, 1927.

The finals of the first National Leagues were played in 1926, the hurling going to Cork and the football to Laoighis.

1927.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Dublin. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Meath. J.F.—Cavan.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Dublin. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Meath. J.F.—Kildare.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Limerick. J.F.—Kerry.

CONNACHT.

S.F.—Leitrim. J.F.—Mayo.
S.H. and J.H.—Galway.

ULSTER.

S.F.—Monaghan. J.F.—Cavan.
H.—Antrim.

In regard to the winning of All-Ireland honours, 1927 was a blank year with Munster. With a strong Garda selection Dublin won well from Cork in the Hurling final. Kerry, only lately home from their first visit to America, fell before Kildare in football. Leitrim, as Connacht champions, had given Kerry a good game in the semi-final.

Cavan held the Junior football title for Ulster, but the final, in which they defeated Kildare, was not played until 1928. Meath won the first and only All-Ireland championship that has gone to that county—Junior Hurling—in which they defeated Dublin (in a replayed Leinster final), Limerick, and Galway (on a replay).

Mr. Breen (Wexford), who had been appointed trustee on the death of Mr. Harty (Dublin), was re-elected with Mr. Mulholland (Cork), and both are still in office.

A proposal to organise All-Ireland Minor Championships was agreed to.

Central Council receipts in 1926 were reported, £13,894—a record.

MAURICE DAVIN'S DEATH.

The death took place during the year of Maurice Davin, one of the founders and first Presidents of the Association. Others who passed away were—P. Kenefick (former Chairman Dublin Co. Board), P. J. Walsh (former Trustee, G.A.A.), and Tom Mernagh, one of the Wexford football team that won the All-Ireland Championship in the four years 1915-'18.

Mr. Martin O'Neill (Wexford) was elected Secretary to the Leinster Council by a majority over Mr. J. F. Shouldice (Dublin), who had been in office since 1918.

Croke House, residence and office of the General Secretary, convenient to Croke Park, and the Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, were purchased in 1927.

1928.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Kilkenny. J.F.—Kerry.
M.H.—Cork.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Dublin. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Kilkenny. J.F.—Louth.
M.H.—Dublin.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary. J.F.—Kerry.
M.H.—Cork.

CONNACHT.

S.H.—Galway. S.F.—Sligo.
J.F.—Sligo.

ULSTER

H.—Antrim. S.F.—Cavan.
J.F.—None.

The surprise of the year was the defeat of Kerry by Tipperary in the Munster Football Championship. Tipperary, in turn, lost to Cork in the Munster final, and Kildare won the All-Ireland semi-final from Cork. Cavan qualified for the All-Ireland final by defeating Sligo, and put up a great fight against Kildare in the final. Kildare, who had the same team that defeated Kerry in 1927, were reckoned lucky winners.

Cork defeated Dublin in the Hurling semi-final and had an easy victory over Galway in the final. Clare, who had defeated Tipperary in the Munster semi-final, held Cork to level scoring in the final, but went down on the replay.

Cork won the first Minor Hurling Championship after a drawn game with Dublin.

At the annual Congress Mr. Sean Ryan (Dublin) was elected President by 92 votes to 33 for Mr. Sean T. O'Ruane (Chairman, Connacht Council).

The Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, writing to the Central Council accepting an invitation to become a Patron of the Association, stated: "Believing that the G.A.A. has an exceedingly healthy influence on Irish life, I deem it a great honour to be a patron. I hope the Association will continue its splendid work for Irish ideals and manly Irish customs."

At the All-Ireland Hurling semi-final between Cork and Dublin the Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, was formally declared open by the President of the G.A.A. (Mr. Ryan), and the grounds were blessed by the Most Rev. Dr. Collier, Bishop of Ossory.

The deaths took place during the year of Mr. William O'Brien, who was a Patron of the G.A.A., and Mr. Liam McCarthy (London), donor of the Cup that goes with the All-Ireland Hurling Championship.

1929.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Offaly. J.F.—Westmeath.
M.H.—Waterford. M.F.—Clare.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Vold. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Offaly. J.F.—Westmeath.
M.H.—Meath. M.F.—Longford.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Cork. J.F.—Limerick.
M.H.—Waterford. M.F.—Clare.

CONNACHT.

S.F.—Mayo. J.F.—Roscommon.
S.H. and J.H.—Galway.

ULSTER.

S.F.—Monaghan. J.F.—Armagh.
H.—Antrim.

Cork again defeated Galway in the All-Ireland Hurling final. The championship had an unsatisfactory ending in Leinster. Kilkenny defeated Dublin in the final at New Ross, but both teams were disqualified for being late in lining out. Kilkenny represented Leinster in the All-Ireland semi-final, but were beaten by Galway at Birr.

Kerry returned to defeat Kildare in a good football final before a crowd of 43,839, with receipts £4,019.

Waterford, Westmeath, and Clare come into the list of championship winnings, Clare, who defeated Longford in the final, taking the first All-Ireland Minor Football title.

Mr. Ryan (Dublin) who was unanimously re-elected President at the 1929 Congress, said the position of the Colleges competitions was satisfactory, except in a few of the Southern districts.

It was agreed unanimously that Connacht play Munster and Leinster alternately in the semi-final of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.

It was decided, on a motion from Antrim, that no Council, Committee, or club be permitted to organise any entertainment at which there are foreign dances.

The death took place during the year of Mr. L. J. O'Toole, who had been General Secretary since 1901; Mr. Dan Fraher (Dungarvan), one of the oldest members of the G.A.A.; Mr. Jer. Doheny, who captained the Kilkenny team that won the 1904 championship; and Mr. Austin Stack, Kerry football captain, 1909, who had a lifelong connection with the G.A.A. in many capacities.

The G.A.A. was actively identified with the stewarding at the Catholic Emancipation centenary celebrations in Dublin.

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, was presented with a gold crozier from the G.A.A.,

Mr. P. J. O'Keeffe (Cork) was elected General Secretary in succession to Mr. O'Toole.

THE ALL-IRELAND MEDAL.

1930.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Tipperary. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary. J.F.—Kerry.
M.H.—Tipperary. M.F.—Dublin.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Dublin. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Kilkenny. J.F.—Dublin.
M.H.—Kilkenny. M.F.—Dublin.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Tipperary. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary. J.F.—Kerry.
M.H.—Tipperary. M.F.—Clare.

CONNACHT.

S.H.—Galway. S.F.—Mayo.
J.H.—Galway. J.F.—Mayo.
M.F.—Mayo.

ULSTER.

H.—Antrim. S.F.—Monaghan.
M.H.—Down. J.F.—Donegal.

In winning all three Hurling championships Tipperary set up a record that remains.

The Football final was one of the poorest on record. Kildare, who had been in four finals since 1926 and had won two, had played two games with Meath on consecutive Sundays in the Leinster final, and a week later turned out to meet with an unexpected reverse by Monaghan. Monaghan went through a course of special training, but they gave a disappointing display against Kerry.

At the 1930 Congress, held in the Mansion House, Mr. Sean Ryan (Dublin) was unanimously re-elected President for the third year

A motion from Laoighis was carried to the effect that for breaches of the rule requiring teams to be on the field at the appointed time, and where the delay does not exceed 15 minutes, the following fines be imposed instead of the penalty of disqualification:—Minor Inter-County Championship, £10; Junior do., £15; Senior do., National League matches, and Railway Cups, £20; Senior Provincial finals and Senior Interprovincial Championships, £25; Senior All-Ireland finals, £50; the fines to be deducted from the expenses.

A Dublin motion proposing the abolition of the non-resident rule was defeated by a big majority.

The following letter, received through the Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, was read at the Congress from the Cardinal Secretary to His Holiness the Pope:

"The letter written by Mr. Ryan (President), conveying the congratulations of the Gaels of Ireland on the conciliation established between the Holy See and Italy, has been received, and the Holy Father is deeply appreciative of this message. If it is convenient for your Grace to express the Holy Father's appreciation of this action taken by the Congress, I authorise your Grace to do so."

The death took place on the eve of the All-Ireland Football Final of Mr. Dick Fitzgerald, the famous Kerry footballer,

1931.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Waterford. J.F.—Galway.
M.H.—Kilkenny. M.F.—Kerry.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Kilkenny. S.F.—Kildare.
J.H.—Void. J.F.—Kildare.
M.H.—Kilkenny. M.F.—Louth.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Cork. S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Waterford. J.F.—Kerry.
M.H.—Tipperary. M.F.—Kerry.

CONNACHT.

S.H.—Galway. S.F.—Mayo.
J.H.—Galway. J.F.—Galway.
M.H.—Galway. M.F.—Mayo.

ULSTER.

H.—Antrim. S.F.—Cavan.
M.H.—Antrim. J.F.—Down.
M.F.—Tyrone.

The outstanding feature of the year was the hurling final decided in favour of Cork after they had played two drawn games with Kilkenny. Kilkenny had not been in the final since 1926.

It was only after they had defeated Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final that serious notice began to be taken of Kilkenny's prospects. Laoighis had extended Kilkenny in the provincial final. When Kilkenny won from Galway memories of former great struggles between Cork and Kilkenny were revived and the final evoked wonderful interest and enthusiasm. In the two drawn games there was thrilling hurling, but Cork won well on the third test, Kilkenny being unfortunate in having players injured.

We had another good football final between Kerry and Kildare. Kildare had the better of the opening half, but Kerry rallied convincingly and were worthy winners.

Waterford won their first Junior Hurling Championship. Junior Football honours went for the first time to Galway, who defeated Kerry and Kildare on the way.

Kerry defeated Louth in the final of the Minor Football Championship, and have retained the title in the meantime.

The outgoing President (Mr. Sean Ryan) was unanimously re-elected for the fourth year at the 1931 Congress.

Mr. T. Dooley (Cork), who was introduced as the oldest supporter of the G.A.A., was accorded an ovation on entering the room, and was accommodated with a seat beside the President.

The rule bearing on the puck-in from the sideline in hurling was amended to permit of a score being made direct from the puck-in.

The death took place during the year of Mr. Pat McGrath (Tipperary), who had been secretary to the Munster Council since 1904. Mr. Sean McCarthy (Tralee), a well-known Kerry Gael, was elected to the vacant position.

Tipperary hurling team and Kerry

football team, as All-Ireland champions for 1930, toured America.

1932.

ALL-IRELAND.

S.H.—Kilkenny.	S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Dublin.	J.F.—Louth.
M.H.—Tipperary.	M.F.—Kerry.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Kilkenny.	S.F.—Dublin.
J.H.—Dublin.	J.F.—Louth.
M.H.—Kilkenny.	M.F.—Laoighis.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Clare.	S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Cork.	J.F.—Cork.
M.H.—Tipperary.	M.F.—Kerry.

CONNACHT.

S.H.—Galway.	S.F.—Mayo.
J.H.—Galway.	J.F.—Roscommon.
M.H.—Galway.	M.F.—Galway.

ULSTER.

H.—Donegal.	S.F.—Cavan.
M.H.—Down.	J.F.—Cavan.
M.F.—Antrim.	

The enthusiasm aroused by the 1931 Hurling Final had a healthy effect, and the 1932 Championships were a decided success. Limerick sprang a surprise by defeating Tipperary in the opening hurling round in Munster, but were beaten by a Cork team that fell short of the 1931 standard, and, in turn, went down before Clare.

It was a remarkable game between Clare and Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. Galway ran up a long lead, and seemed assured of victory, but were beaten in a sensational finish.

In the Leinster final Kilkenny got a good game from Dublin. The All-Ireland Final drew a record crowd for hurling (£3,000). In winning from Clare, who had last represented Munster when they won the 1914 title, Kilkenny had little to spare. It was the first senior hurling championship to go to Kilkenny since 1922.

Kerry took their fourth consecutive football championship, equalling a record previously held by Wexford.

Kildare, who had been Leinster football champions since 1926, were defeated by Wexford, who lost to Dublin on a replay of the provincial final.

The All-Ireland semi-finals were played at Croke Park, where Kerry were fortunate to escape defeat by Dublin in one of the greatest games in history.

Donegal regained the Ulster hurling championship, which they last held in 1923. The All-Ireland junior title went to Dublin for the first time.

Mr. Sean McCarthy, B.A. (Cork), on being unanimously elected President at the 1932 Congress, regretted that more of the Colleges were not with them.

A motion from Waterford that in all matches the half-time interval be not more than ten minutes was carried.

The Central Council was authorised to devise a scheme for the endowment of scholarships at St. Enda's College. Fourteen boys were awarded scholarships under the scheme as approved later.

Due in great measure to the three games between Cork and Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Hurling final gate receipts in 1931 were reported to have reached the record figure of £15,321—almost double the amount taken in 1930.

Mayo football team toured America during the year.

The Tailteann Games were held in July, when a team of hurlers was present from South Africa, in addition to the teams from America and Britain, and a shinty team from Scotland.

Mr. P. Fearon (Armagh) succeeded Mr. P. McFadden (Antrim) as Chairman of the Ulster Council.

The G.A.A. was actively identified with the organisation of the Eucharistic Congress.

1933.

ALL IRELAND.

S.H.—Kilkenny.	S.F.—Cavan.
J.H.—Tipperary.	J.F.—Mayo.
M.H.—Tipperary.	M.F.—Kerry.

LEINSTER.

S.H.—Kilkenny.	S.F.—Dublin.
J.H.—Laoighis.	J.F.—Carlow.
M.H.—Kilkenny.	M.F.—Dublin.

MUNSTER.

S.H.—Limerick.	S.F.—Kerry.
J.H.—Tipperary.	J.F.—Cork.
M.H.—Tipperary.	M.F.—Kerry.

CONNACHT.

S.H.—Galway.	S.F.—Galway.
J.H.—Galway.	J.F.—Mayo.
M.H.—Galway.	M.F.—Mayo.

ULSTER.

H.—Antrim.	S.F.—Cavan.
M.H.—Antrim.	J.F.—Donegal.
	M.F.—Antrim.

The year that will be under review at the Jubilee Congress saw many new records made.

For the first time Ulster and Connacht counties met in All-Ireland championship finals. Cavan had the honour of bringing the first All-Ireland Senior Football title to Ulster, and Mayo, winning through in Junior Football, took the first All-Ireland championship to that county.

In attendance and receipts new record figures were set up at the Hurling and Football finals.

The attendance at the Hurling final (45,176) passed all previous figures for Hurling or Football, but was improved on a few weeks later at the Football final (45,188). Receipts from the Hurling final were £3,972, and from the Football final £4,037.

In 1933 Limerick hurlers lived true to the promise shown the previous year. In Munster they defeated Clare, Cork, and Waterford (in an unfinished game), and, entering the All-Ireland final, had the confidence of their followers.

Kilkenny in the Leinster final got a splendid game from Dublin. Kilkenny won by two goals after being four goals in arrear at the interval.

Kilkenny defeated Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, and in the final their backs proved too good for the Limerick forwards. It was a well-contested final, with the pace fast and the play keen and vigorous, but Kilkenny made the better use of their scoring chances.

Following the defeat of Dublin by Galway and of Kerry (champions since 1929) by Cavan, the Football final aroused extraordinary interest. Despite unfavourable weather, it was a good game, and although Cavan, who had been the more strongly fancied, were deserving winners, they had little to spare.

Tipperary won the Junior Hurling championship easily, and their Minors found the stiffest opposition in Munster.

THE CROKE TROPHY—Presented 1886 to Archbishop Croke at Chicago, and inscribed—"To the unchanged and unchangeable Archbishop and Patriot, the joy and pride of the sea-divided Gael. This slight tribute from three of them—1886."

Bequeathed to Dr. Fennelly, Archbishop of Cashel, by Dr. Croke. Dr. Fennelly gave it to Dean Ryan for the best hurling team competing in aid of Fethard Church. It was won outright by Thurles Blues, captained by T. Semple, in 1909-10-11. Now in possession of Mr. J. Maher, who has been Treas. of Thurles for 25 years.

This dual success went a long way to recompense Tipperary for the defeat of their Seniors on a replay early in the year by Waterford.

Kerry won the Minor football championship for the third consecutive year, but were hard pressed by Mayo in a spirited final. Antrim regained the Ulster hurling championship from Donegal.

A junior hurling competition between Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, and Mayo was played in Connacht and won by Roscommon, but Galway juniors represented the province in the All-Ireland series.

Another notable feature of the year was the victory of Meath in the National Football League. Meath defeated Dublin, Laoighis, and Kerry early in the season. They lost to Dublin in the championship, but scored over Mayo in the League semi-final, and defeated Cavan in the final a few weeks after Cavan had won their first All-Ireland title.

Kilkenny won their first National Hurling League by defeating Limerick in a disappointing final.

The President (Mr. Sean McCarthy, B.A.), who was unanimously re-elected, delivered a stirring address at the 1933 Congress, which was held in the Dublin City Hall.

Close on 150 delegates attended, all counties in Ireland being represented, with delegates from Britain and a representative from the G.A.A. in America—Mr. John Quane, Tipperary, a famous Tipperary footballer, who is now a delegate to the Central Council.

It was unanimously decided that the 1934 Congress be held in Thurles in connection with the Jubilee celebrations, but a proposal that the 1934 Hurling final be played in Thurles was deferred for a year.

A motion from Meath that the national flag be displayed at all matches was unanimously accepted.

The establishment of an All-Ireland Club in Dublin was favoured. The estimated cost of acquiring a suitable premises and furnishing the club was given as £1,500 and Mr. D. Hanley (Dublin), who moved for the support of Congress in the matter, said the Association, with 100,000 members, should have a Dublin headquarters where visitors from the country could meet socially.

It was decided that the minimum penalty on a player ordered off the field be one month's suspension.

A Cork motion that in inter-county and inter-provincial matches the lists handed to the referee contain the names of clubs from which players have been selected opposite each was adopted.

Kerry footballers made their third tour of America during 1933 and added to their collection of trophies. The team was accompanied by Mr. P. J. O'Keeffe, General Secretary, G.A.A., and Sean McCarthy, Secretary Munster Council.

Rev. J. O'Dea, C.C. (Galway), was elected President of the Connacht Council in succession to Mr. Sean I. O'Ruane (Mayo), who had filled the position for several years.

There is a bright era ahead, but work in plenty remains to be done. In this Jubilee year there is reason to rejoice, but the best tribute that can be paid to the founders of the G.A.A. is to aim at further progress and improvement, keeping in mind all the time the ideals and aspirations that in the past have served as an unerring guide.

Said Mr. Gold to Mr. Flake—

"Fine sight, a crowd of Irish Sportsmen, Mr. Flake." "What makes you say that, Mr. Gold?" "Well, they're men with Wills of their own." "Don't forget the Sportswomen, Mr. Gold." "Certainly not, Mr. Flake. They've got WILLS of their own, too."

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SOME GREAT HURLING FINALS OF THE PAST

EPIC STRUGGLES DESCRIBED

BACK TO DAYS OF YESTER-YEAR

HAVING watched some 70 All-Ireland finals since the dawn of the century, one's difficulty is to select a few from the many outstanding games for the purposes of this survey. Looking through personal scrapbooks, through manuscript notes taken on the spot, and through time-coloured newspaper files, memories of those stirring scenes of the past crowd in—mental pictures of great teams and times; of players and patrons; of wildly excited concourses; of densely peopled streets and thoroughfares; of swaying, surging railway termini; of exultant bands and waving banners—with the glamour of the resurgent Gaedhal woven through them all.

I have been guided in my necessarily limited selection of hurling and football finals by the desire to include representative teams of all four provinces in my descriptions. Well-matched men and close finishes are essentials of all high-class finals where first one and then the other team led; where spectators were kept on tiptoe of expectancy to the referee's last whistle; and where victor and vanquished alike covered themselves with added glory. My three chosen Hurling finals are:—

(1) Tipperary v. London-Irish in the 1900 final played at Croke Park on October 26, 1902.

(2) Kilkenny v. Cork in the 1912 final played at Croke Park on November 17 of that year.

(3) Dublin v. Tipperary in the 1917 final played at Croke Park on October 28, 1917.

EXCITING STRUGGLES.

There were many exciting struggles of which I was tempted to write whose vivid impressions still haunt my memory. Notably that 1907 final at Dungarvan, played in June, 1908, between Kilkenny (21 pts.) and Cork (20 pts.). Many good judges set that game—won on the stroke of the clock by a flying ball from Anthony of Piltown, which was swept on the drop by Kelly of Mooncoin—as the peak of hurling excellence. I have been reluctantly forced to omit that hectic final of 1910 between Wexford and Limerick where the Garryowen men, a long way in arrears at the half-hour, were almost on level terms in a finish brimful of incident with the final score again at 21 pts. to 20 in Wexford's favour. Clare's sole All-Ireland Championship in 1914, when they beat Laoighis by 5-1 to 2-4, was another memorable struggle, a year before the Midland county astonished all the critics by defeating a "crack" Cork side on a wet October evening in 1915.

Running through my mind also, calling for detailed description, is Faughs' (Dublin) great victory over Cork in the 1920 championship—4-9 to 4-2—as was that hectic final of 1922, when Matty Power's brilliancy as left-winger snatched eleventh-hour victory from Tipperary's powerful forces, bringing Kilkenny her eighth championship by a solitary point (18 to 17) after a lapse of exactly ten years. Nor should Galway's fine victory over Tipperary in 1923 escape notice.

Since then we have seen many thrilling finals of high quality, but in this Jubilee Year of the Association I have sought to recall the more ancient games so to speak. Recent events are fresh in young memories. Brilliant hurling we have watched with growing pride in the last decade, but I must be excused for delving in the past and paying tribute to the good men and true who, carrying the flag through difficult periods, brought our National Pastime down to us in its pristine vigour and manly distinction.

WHEN EXILES CAME.

Round the borders of the 19th and 20th centuries, Tipperary hurlers swept the field. Herculean men, fast and fearless, these Ryans and Mahers and Gleeson clans had won four out of five championships between 1896 and 1901 against the stoutest selections of Munster, Connacht, and Leinster counties. They seemed almost invincible. Led by Mike Maher, of Tubberadora, they were drawn from that superb peasantry who till the fertile Golden Vein country within a ten mile radius of Thurles town, where the G.A.A. was first cradled under the patronage of Cashel's revered Prelate. Hurling tradition was in their blood. They swung ash as soon as they were able to crawl. Hurling was the sport of their youthful leisure; they hit ground balls off either hand with immense power; like war steeds they revelled in lusty combat; they played with reckless abandon—"the honour of the village" their watchword. No fancy lifting for them. They tore their way through all opposition to victory. And they had superb hurlers on their vital flanks—Tom Semple of Thurles, the peerless winger; Gleeson, Wall, and O'Keeffe, of Moycarkey; Hayes and Walsh of Tubberadora. No wonder they travelled to Dublin with respectful but supreme confidence to meet those exiled hurlers who had sought a livelihood in the Saxon Capital, and still cherished their native game under difficult conditions with all the tenacity of their race.

Around about that time extensive street-paving and building contracts gave openings for men of exceptional physique in London. Friendly Irish contractors brought a few Irish hurlers across; the few brought many. All unknown to home teams, the London-Irish had gathered together and partly trained a group of supermen. We had heard of Sean Oge Hanley, of Kilfinane; Dan Horgan, of Ahabullogue; Coughlan, McMahon, and the MacNamaras of Clare, John O'Brien of Blackrock; and Dave Roche of Limerick; but the most we could hope for was a fair and earnest

LONDON-IRISH, WHO DEFEATED CORK, THE 1901 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS.

Back Row: W. Douglas (Hon. Sec.), P. King (Clare), J. O'Connell (Limerick), Tim Doody (Limerick), T. Redmond (Wexford), Dan Horgan (Cork), J. McCarthy (Kilkenny), referee; L. J. O'Toole (Sec., Central Council), J. Shine (Galway). Second Row: J. Tobin (Hon. Treas.), J. Lynch (Cork), Jack King (Clare), Ned Barrett (Kerry), C. Crowley (Cork), J. Fitzgerald (Limerick), M. McMahon (Tipperary), M. O'Brien, Wm. McCarthy (President). Front Row: M. Horgan (Cork), Jim Barry (Cork), J. O'Brien (Cork), J. G. Coughlin (capt.) (Clare), J. Kelleher (Cork), Tom Barry (Cork), J. O'Brien (Clare).

game without sensing a serious challenge to Tipperary's supremacy.

1902

TIPPERARY BEAT LONDON-IRISH

The London-Irish contingent had a rocky (sea) road to Dublin. They were a weary, travel-stained, but jolly lot who disembarked on the North Wall at 2 a.m. on that bleak Sunday morning. A few faithful friends greeted them hospitably and made them comfortable at their hotel. But 'twas little sleep they had, for they were already thrilled by the warmth of their home-greeting, and by the exciting prospects of the day.

Tipperary came by a delayed train, and amongst ten thousand eager spectators—I was a small boy then—I watched the late arrivals with something approaching hero-worship. Dressing accommodation was limited, and I recall how the teams dressed with difficulty in crowded narrow rooms crushed round with admirers.

Dublin's Lord Mayor (T. Harrington, M.P.), threw the ball in at 2.10, in dull October weather; the referee was Mr. John McCarthy, of Kilkenny. Cheer and counter-cheer greeted the home champions and exiles alike on that memorable break-away. The teams were:—

Tipperary—E. Hayes (capt.); P. Hayes, M. Ryan, M. Purcell, T. Allen, P. Maher, W. Maher (Two-Mile-Borris); Mikie Maher, T. Ryan, E. Maher (Tubberadora); W. Gleeson (2), J. Gleeson, J. O'Keeffe, M. Wall (Moycarkey); T. Semple (Thurles).

London-Irish—D. Horgan (capt.); T. J. Doody, M. Horgan, S. Lynch, J. O'Leary, J. O'Connell, J. Healy, J. McMahon (Desmond Rovers); D. Roche, P. McNamara, D. McNamara, J. Hanley, J. Dennis (Emmets); J. G. Coughlan, J. Keogh (Brians); J. Keogh, J. O'Brien (Hibernians).

TIPPERARY LEAD.

Tipperary swept down the field from the throw-in. Having won the toss they stormed the Railway goal. Hayes pointed, Maher had another from a free, O'Keeffe doubled in a third, and despite a great defence by Flynn in the London goal, Maher tore in for Tipperary's fourth point—all in the first quarter. Score, 4 to nil.

Just then London's backs opened out. Hanley, O'Brien, and Horgan surprised us with their long, accurate clearances. They stemmed the tide. Quickly the game swung to the other end. McMahon, McNamara, and Coughlan fastened on the ball, and inside five minutes rushed through three surprising points.

Then the fur flew. At every corner of the heavy pitch there were exciting duels. The visitors were standing up gallantly to the unbeaten Munster champions. Gleeson, of Tipperary, retired ill after a collision, J. Maher came on, and swiftly Semple sent his forwards away to rush Tipperary's fifth point close to the halfway. Score:—Tipp.—5 points; Exiles—3 points.

A surprised and pleased crowd gave the London-Irish a rousing cheer as they moved off for a brief respite. They had performed handsomely. Their stout defenders held up Tipperary's storm troops. Their forwards were swift and nimble. Would they stay the hour? was the question. With the wind behind them from the City in the second half they may do better. On the other hand, Tipperary may have something in reserve. They would "pull out" in the second half as is the champions' wont. Thus we surmised in expectancy until the ball was again swung amongst the eager groups of stern men.

EXCITING FINISH.

And such a second half it proved! Away went the Exiles to attack, driving over in their impetuosity. Returning from every puck-out they rushed a fourth point home. When the fifth and balancing point came round the third quarter, spectators cheered wildly. Dubliners were "with" London-Irish to a man, for the Irish-Ireland revival was then pulsating in the Capital, and London-Irish were the symbols of the scattered but yet unconquered spirit of the Irish race.

I have no record of the name (I think 'twas Coughlan), but when an Exile forward doubled through London's sixth point for the lead pandemonium reigned. The surrounding rails failed to hold the swaying, excited crowd. Barriers broke down with a crash, yet did good stewarding keep the pitch clear in those vivid last minutes. Sean Oge Hanley's sweeping left-handers were a feature. Then a tragic event happened. Dan Horgan, the visiting captain, playing a great game, came out to clear a loose ball. It stopped dead in a rut unexpectedly. He put his hand to it, expecting a hop, but fouled it on the sod.

Here was Tipp's last chance—one point behind and three minutes to go. Hayes took the free and dropped it on the goalmouth. In tore Mike Maher and Co. Like a whirlwind they swept London defenders—ball and all—through the posts for a goal! There was a wild, steely Tipperary roar. The puck-out was weak, and in a flash Gleeson, Hayes, and O'Keeffe were on it to goal again, just before the whistle sounded on an epic game.

There was a wild rush of spectators; victor and vanquished were stormed by admirers. Tipperary had held the title at home, but the gallant losers were cheered to the echo. Their reception that day gave them fresh heart and spirit, which was re-echoed a year later when they achieved their ambition at the expense of Cork in another astonishing game (8 points to 4), played in August, 1903.

1912

KILKENNY'S GREAT RECORD

I now ask my readers to jump over ten years of varying fortune through which hurling emerged triumphant on to another memorable day—November 17, 1912, when the choicest hurlers in the land met at Croke Park in a pulsating final, attracting a record attendance of 25,000, and placing hurling on a new plane of popularity as a fascinating outdoor spectacle.

In the intervening decade of years progressive minds had aided hurling's evolution. The scoring area was changed to its present form, goal nets were used, rules were stricter, the ball was lighter and faster, players were better trained, and grounds were revolutionised in condition and equipment.

Kilkenny had won the 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, and 1911 championships. A combination of Tullaroan, Mooncoin, Three Castles, and Kilkenny City clubs had evolved a distinctive style where speed, neatness of execution, and graceful methods were embraced. Their hurling was a joy to watch. Cork were deemed their nearest rivals as stylists; indeed, it was said that Kilkenny built their style on the smooth Leeside swing of ash. So when Kilkenny had beaten Wexford, Laoighis, and Galway, with Cork winning gruelling games from Limerick and Tipperary, the road was open for a record final.

Never was Gaelic interest so widespread. The Press came to aid the promoters in writing up advance details of the teams and players. Cork's special train was crowded out, and a second was requisitioned, to be filled to capacity. In all, seventeen trains ran in a bright, sunny morning. Alderman L. Sherlock, Lord Mayor of Dublin, agreed to throw in the ball. he was accompanied by Lord Mayor O'Shea of Cork, and Mayor Purcell of Kilkenny. Bands played the teams on to the field. Cork carried Blackrock's famous colours of green and gold; Kilkenny sported their familiar black and amber lucky jerseys. It was a scéne to gladden the Gaelic heart. Mr. M. F. Crowe, Ireland's greatest referee, held the whistle. Mr. Harry Boland had charge of the arrangements.—Beannacht De 'leo araon. Seven thousand travelled by train alone, and the barriers again gave way before the unexpected rush. The teams lined out as under:—

Kilkenny—J. Power (goal) (Piltown); Sim Walton (capt.), J. Keoghan, Pierce Grace, Dick Grace, Dan Kennedy (Tullaroan); Drug Walsh, E. Doyle, M. Doyle, R. Doyle, J. Kelly, R. Doherty (Mooncoin); J. J. Brennan, M. Gargan, P. Lanigan, T. McCormack (Erin's Own); J. Rochford (Three Castles).

Cork—Barry Murphy (capt.), A. Fitzgerald (goal), D. Barry, L. Flaherty, M. Dorney, P. O'Brien, W. Mackessy, D. Kidney (Blackrock); J. Kelleher (Dungourney); Connie Sheehan (Redmonds); M. Byrne, W. Walsh (Sarsfields); P. Mahony (Ahabullogue); J. Murphy (Finbarrs); J. Kennedy (Carrigtwohill); T. Nagle, D. Kennefick (St. Marys).

TRIED AND TRUE.

Each man of this thirty-four was a tried and true hurler who had come through the most severe tests in home and inter-county work. They were trained to the hour and fleet as deer. They served up a contest of enthralling skill and tensity, where brilliant overhead play was interspersed with deadly tackling and finesse with glorious ground drives of surpassing length. Backs on both sides gave polished displays.

Kennedy's early "70" was cleared by Sheehan, the Redmond star. At a terrific pace the white ball flew from end to end. Kennedy's free reached the elusive Mackessy—Cork's speed merchant—who flashed it across for the opening point. Cork were hurling like champions. Kelleher and Murphy shone behind; Dorney's centre free reached Kidney of Blackrock; he doubled in mid-air to net amidst wild cheering.

In a fearless collision Grace and Flaherty crashed without one seeing the other. Both were unconscious for some minutes, but resumed amidst loud applause. Kennedy, Rochford, and Grace were defending stoutly. Cork were pressing hotly. A long, loose drive of Dan Kennedy's, however, reached Walton, and that dashing Tullaroan scorer swept Kilkenny's first point across. Frees were missed at either end through a half-hour of lightning pace without further scores, until Major Kennedy doubled a rapid point just at half-time:—Cork, 1 goal 2 points; Kilkenny, 1 point.

ELECTRIC HURLERS.

A slight drizzle failed to slow down these electric hurlers. Kidney's point sent Cork further ahead before Kilkenny settled down to grand hurling. They charged in a body; Barry Murphy and Kelleher cleared only for Sim Walton to swing on a flying ball and completely beat Fitzgerald for a great goal.

How that huge Kilkenny concourse greeted the green flag! With the scores at 1-3 to 1-1 still in Cork's favour the kaleidoscopic game proceeded. Then came the sensation of that great hour. Mat Gargan, always restlessly prowling for loose balls at centrefield, hit a powerful ground ball. Cork's backs were up field. The leather travelled a slowing pace right up to Fitzgerald, Cork's master goalie. With ample time to stop with foot or ash, he pulled coolly. The ball hopped over a rough spot past his hurley—to rest just behind the line! There was a painful hush, and then a shrill Kilkenny cheer greeted the unexpected green flag and the lead. What a scene there was! The crowd cheered and sighed as their favour bent, but the great game swung on.

Now a point behind, with three-quarters of the play in their favour, Cork strove with might and main to recover their grip on the game. They stormed the Kilkenny posts. Power, Rochford and Grace were all but overwhelmed. Excited spectators encroached on the end line, hampering Cork's attack. Again and again the ball touched their feet inside the line. As Cork flashed ball after ball goalwards, Kilkenny's rock-like backs refused to yield. Vital minutes sped, and Mick Crowe's final whistle called a respite for Kilkenny's sore pressed but still unbeaten defenders. It was a homeric struggle. Cork followers were dismayed, protesting volubly against the end line encroachment,

MICHAEL CUSACK AS HURLER

Metropolitan Hurling Club, Dublin, with their President, Michael Cusack (seated in centre with white shirt), winners Dublin County Championship, 1891.

which they held had robbed them of victory, but the Leeside hurlers took their glorious defeat in good part. Kilkenny were lucky, perhaps, but their gallant backs deserved the honours showered upon them. They went on to win the 1913 Final from Toomevara (2-4 to 1-2) and complete a record of 7 titles in 10 years which may never be broken.

1917

DUBLIN DEFEAT TIPPERARY

Phoenix-like from the ashes of heroes in 1916 arose a new national spirit which was to bring such rapid changes in another decade. The cultural movement gripped Schools, Colleges, and Universities through the country. University College, Dublin, Alma Mater of many patriots, took the National pastime to its bosom. Headed by Dr. J. M. Ryan, a 6 foot 3 giant from the Limerick-Tipperary border, the Fitzgibbon Cup boys won the Dublin Senior championship and made new hurling history. Kilkenny were still a force and had a close call with Wexford at New Ross. Collegians called on a big contingent of seven from Faughs' powerful club. They had introduced new training methods. Track gallops, baths, massage, handball took the place of older methods. Harry Boland was John Ryan's lieutenant in this rigid preparation. A buoyant national spirit urged the team to great endeavour, and they outsped Kilkenny's veteran team to the tune of 5-1 to 4 goals.

Meanwhile the Munster series pursued their rugged way. Limerick beat Cork; Tipp. won from Clare. The Golden Vein neighbours, Limerick and Tipperary, played a drawn game in the Market Fields at Shannonside. In the replay Tipperary, playing with fine resolution, pulled the game off. Beside me on the stand that day was the tall, engrossed figure of the captain of the Dublin Collegians. When the game was over I thought he was "drawing the long bow" when he declared firmly for all to hear:—

"Dublin would beat the pick of the two teams."

. . . . . .

Self-satisfied Munstermen smiled quietly at the confidence of these scholastics. Wait till they met the rugged hurlers of Tipperary. We waited, travelled, were held enthralled, saw speed personified from Frank Burke, Brendan Considine (sub.), and Joe Phelan in a series of ravishing raids which marked a new phase in hurling history and set a freshman club-name on the lengthening roll of Irish champions.

A GREAT STRUGGLE.

I was one of 12,000 spectators who saw a magnificent struggle at G.A.A. headquarters on a bright Sunday in October, 1917. Collegians' speed was a revelation. Bob Mockler, then in his glorious prime, was heroic at centre, playing masterful hurling for the county of his adoption against his schoolmates from Horse and Jockey, Moycarkey, and Boherlahan. We looked on this well-knit Tipperary side as assured champions:—

J. Leahy (Boherlahan) (capt.); his two brothers, Patrick and Michael, J. O'Meara (goal); S. Hackett, J. Doherty, W. Dwyer, H. Shelly, P. Dwyer, J. Collison, J. Fitzpatrick, T. Shanahan, J. Power, R. Walsh, J. Nagle.

Yet they met their equals in hurling skill and peers for speed in this new-strung Dublin side:—

J. M. Ryan (capt.); T. Daly (goal); S. Hyde, P. Kennefick, M. Hayes, M. Hackett, R. Mockler, F. Burke, H. Burke, J. Cleary, J. Donovan, M. Neville, J. Phelan, C. Stewart, T. Moore. (B. Considine, sub.).

Tom Daly (later Dr. Daly, of Clare and Ireland teams) early stopped hot Tipp. shots from Collison and Shelly. Mockler and Donovan at centrefield for Dublin mastered their men and sent Burke away. O'Meara cleared only for Mockler from 80 yards out to "draw first blood" for Dublin. Cleary and Burke forced another "70" and Mockler was dead on the mark for a second minor. Considine came on (for H. Burke injured), and the young Clare banker at once swung a deadly centre which Phelan flashed to the net. Tom Moore drove another to Phelan, who passed to Neville, and the Limerick man shot hard from close range to beat O'Meara. This sensational opening sent Dublin's strong following into ecstacies. It was a revelation in cohesive attack. When Tipperary attacked, Sean Hyde and Daly were immense. They couldn't prevent Shelly's elusive dribble, however, and he goaled promptly, raising Tipp's hopes, which were strengthened when Collison tore in for a second goal. Sean Leahy was just wide with two Tipp. frees, and half-time came with the score:—Dublin, 2-2; Tipp., 2 goals.

TRADITIONAL FINISH.

Tipp's traditional finish was anticipated when they set their backs to the sun in the second half. Leahy's fine point from a free set the score at 7 to 8. Then came Dublin's backs' stern battle to hold their lead against the fire of the flower of Tipperary. Daly was immense. He stopped shots from all angles. His goal drives rivalled O'Meara's sailing pucks. Ryan and Hyde hurled stubbornly, sending Mockler and Considine away to place Phelan for a great shot and goal. A flying doubler of Considine brought a fourth, and when Phelan burst through for Dublin's fifth major Tipperary were staggered.

Only for the moment, however. They rallied manfully, and Ryan was hard set to clear from Shelly, who was closely marked by Hyde. The Leahy pair fed Dwyer, however, and a great goal brought Tipp. hopes. When Darby Collison tore through a forest of Dublin hurleys for Tipperary's next point the issue was still open. In a glorious typical Tipp. late rally; their desperate forwards swept the field and goaled. It was their fourth and last major; their final effort came too late, and Collegians' training helped them to hold the impetuous Tipperary forwards in a finish which will live long in memory. Dublin were in three finals through the next four years of stirring political happenings which served, amongst other momentous results, to strengthen Hurling's place in the life of the Nation.

P. D. M.

IRISH PHRASES FOR THE PLAYING PITCH

Is maiṫ an t-iománaiḋe an té a ḃíonn ar an gclaiḋe.

The spectator is always a good hurler.

Ḃí an báire ag teaċt 'na gcoinne i gcóṁnuiḋe.

The match was going against them all the time.

Níl peileadóir níos fearr ná Seán le fáġáil sa paróiste.

There is no better footballer than Sean in the parish.

Naċ iongantaċ an rud é ná cuir-tear clúdaċ bán ar an sliotar?

Is it not surprising that they don't have a white cover on the hurling ball?

Rug na buaċaillí sin ar ċraoḃ le mbliana.

Those boys were the winners this year.

Is maiṫ liom reiḋteoir ná tugann cead d'éinne argóint a ḋéanaṁ leis.

I like the referee who permits nobody to argue with him.

Ní cúl é sin; níor cuireaḋ suas aċ an brat bán.

That is not a goal; it was only the white flag that was put up.

An bfeaca tú riaṁ fear ċoṁ mór leis an bfear san atá 'na ċaoiseaċ ar ṁuinntir Ċiarraiḋe?

Did you ever see as big a man as that Kerry captain?

Fuair Séamus dá ċamán agus liaṫróid coise mar ḟéirín Nodlag.

Seamus got a present of two hurleys and a football at Christmas.

Ar ṫugais fé ndeara riaṁ gur annaṁ a ḃíonn fear mór trom le feiscint imeasc na bfear tosaiġ?

Did you ever notice that a big heavy man is seldom to be seen amongst the forwards?

Ní ḟeadar cé ḃuaiḋfiḋ sa ċoṁórtas iománuiḋeaċta?

I wonder who will win the hurling match?

Ní raiḃ riaṁ in Éirinn cúlbáire ċoṁ cliste le Seán Mac Domhnaill.

There never was a better goalkeeper in Ireland than John McDonnell.

Tá na h-Ultaiġ ag teaċt ċun tosaiġ go tiuġ san iománaiḋeaċt.

The Ulster men are making great headway in hurling.

Ní dóiġ liom go bfuil Míċeál ag faire go géar ar an bfear san ar an imeall clé.

I don't think Michael is closely watching that man on the left wing.

Siné an t-Ardeaspog anois ċun na liaṫróide do ċaiṫeaṁ isteaċ.

There is the Archbishop now going to throw in the ball.

Fan anois go gcloisfiḋ tú an luċt féaċana ag bualaḋ bas agus ag liúraḋ.

Wait now until you hear the spectators clapping their hands and shouting.

Ḃfuil fios agat an bfuil leaṫ na h-aimsire istiġ fós?

Do you know if it is half-time yet?

Ḃí daċad míle daoine i bPáirc an Ċrócaiġ an lá úd.

There were forty thousand people in Croke Park that day.

Ḃíoḋ geall go mbeiḋ na Corcaiġ agus na Tiobraid Árannaiġ ar aon dul sa deire.

I bet you that Cork and Tipperary will be even on the score at the end.

Is cuiṁin liom an rud greannṁar san nuair a ṫuit an fead ar láiṁ an reiḋteora, ḃí sé ċoṁ corruiġṫe san.

I remember the amusing incident when the whistle fell from the referee's hand, he was so excited.

An é sin Rúnaiḋe Cumann Lúṫ-Ċleas Gaeḋeal atá na ṡeasaṁ ag an lár líne?

Is that the Secretary of the G.A.A. standing at the centre line?

An fear san atá ag tógaint na mbuillí in airce tá sé ag riṫ ó ṫaoḃ taoḃ na páirce.

That man who takes the free pucks is running from one side of the field to the other.

Nuair a ḃuaiḋ an Cabán ar an nGaillimh b'in é an ċéad lá do rug na h-Ultaiġ craoḃ na h-Éireann leo.

The first time Ulster won the All-Ireland Championship was when Cavan beat Galway.

Má ḃíonn an gaoṫ agus an grian ag cabhru leat sa ċéad ċuid is furaiste na cúilíní do ċur isteaċ.

If you have the wind and sun in your favour in the first half it is easy to score points.

Ba ḋóiġ liom gur fear cosanta Pilib i gcóṁnuiḋe aċ ċím go bfuil sé ar tosaċ indiu.

I always thought Phil was a back, but I see he is going forward to-day.

Is dóċa go mbronnfaiḋ Uaċtarán an Ċumainn an corn airgid ar an gcaptaon anois?

I suppose the silver Cup will be presented to the captain by the President of the Association now.

Deirtear gur mí-áḋṁarac an comarṫa é an ċéad sgór d'fáġáil.

Some people say it is unlucky to get the first score.

Do cuireaḋ an t-ardán san suas mar ċomarṫa buan-ċuiṁne ar Ṁíċeál Ó h-Ógáin a dúnmarḃuiġeaḋ ceiṫre bliana déag ó ṡoin.

That stand was erected in memory of Michael Hogan, who was murdered fourteen years ago.

Cé go bfuilid ag imirt ar a ndíċeall níl puinn sa ḃreis ag aon taoḃ fé láṫair.

Although they are playing at their best, there is not much between them at present.

Nárḃ' iongantaċ ar fad an ċluiċe í ó ṫús go deire?

Wasn't it a wonderful game from beginning to end?

Ḃí sé de ṁí-áḋ orra gur ísliġ an gaoṫ nuair a ṫosnuiġ an tarna ċuid.

They were out of luck when the wind died down at the beginning of the second half.

Is deacair buaċtaint ar na Cill-Coinniġ.

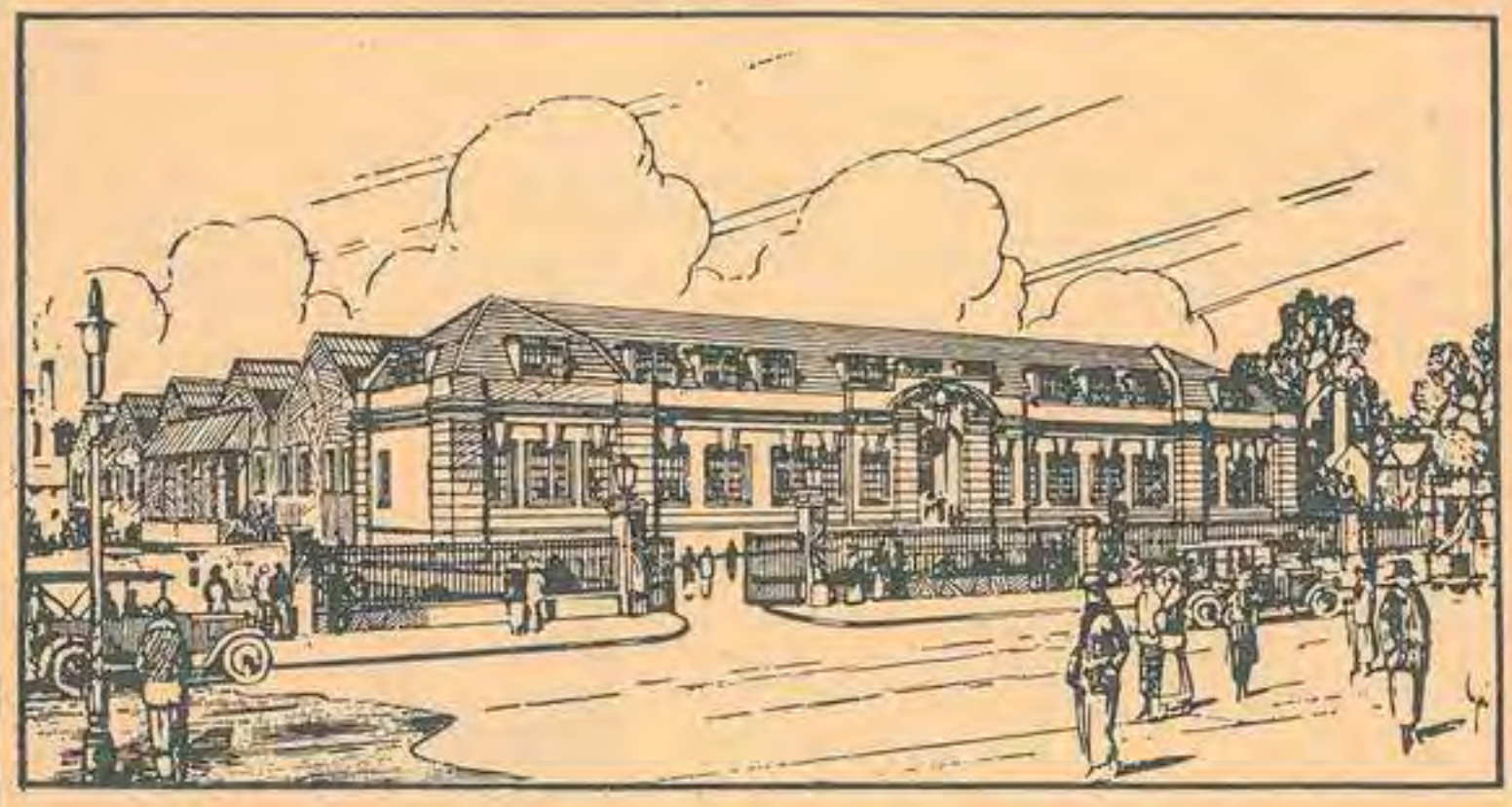
It is a hard job to beat the Kilkennymen.

Is cinnte gurab é sin an slua is mó dá raiḃ láiṫreaċ i nDurlas Éile riaṁ.

It is certain that that was a record crowd for Thurles.

Preparing for Congress

A group taken in Thurles during the making of preliminary arrangements for the Jubilee Congress. From left: Mr. J. J. Maher (Hon. Treasurer of the Thurles team for 25 years), Rev. J. Meagher, C.C., Chairman of Tipperary Co. Board; Mr. P. J. O'Keeffe, Gen. Sec., G.A.A., and Mr. John Kennedy, Town Clerk, Thurles.



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GIANT WIELDERS OF THE CAMAN

PEN PICTURES OF GREAT HURLERS

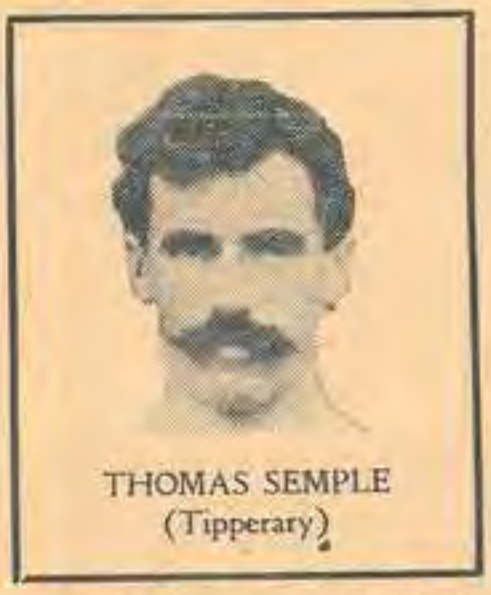
Following is a series of pen-pictures of some great hurlers of other days:—

TIPPERARY'S STAR

TOM SEMPLE, of Thurles.—'Tis thirty-two years since I first saw him at *Tir-an-Ur*—land of the yew trees—in that secluded Gaelic Park behind the spruce Dublin township on the road to the Wicklow hills of Michael Dwyer.

How my young eyes feasted on that six-foot-three lath of a man, handsome as a Greek god; brown hair a clump of close curls; limbs like a thoroughbred; all life and nervous movement. With the great Tubberadora men he was winger, when the Mahers, Gleeson, and the Hayes' swept the Ardrahan boys to their goals in endless flying scores—5 goals and 7 points, it was, against 1 point for the brave Westerners, who hurled as best they might against the most famous team that Ireland knew.

Great long strides Semple had, and such a sweep of ash! Grounders of 90 yards off either hand; lightning lifts and soaring pucks goalwards; fierce and fearless at hurling; kind and gentle as a maid at festive board. Such was Tom Semple, prince of hurlers.



THOMAS SEMPLE
(Tipperary)

A straight, honest man in debate, a stern referee, a pleasant story teller when surrounded by friends, Tom could be silent as the grave. For many years he was Tipp's winging star, through every championship from 1900 to 1912, winning three All-Irelands amongst 60 gold medals. When his hair streaked with grey he was Tipp's touchline director.

When Ireland called, this silent guardsman of the G.S. and W. Rly. was ever at his post. Trusted confidant of the Irish leaders, he carried through many a despatch, and executed many a master-stroke of transport which must not yet be written. Now grown stout and heavy, his masterful control holds clear fields under critical circumstances at Thurles and elsewhere. Big-hearted and noble, his private life is as honest and good as his hurling was bold and clean.

A LIMERICK GIANT

SEAN OG HANLEY, of Kilfinane.—Where the hurlers played beneath the Hillside town a strapping young lad of fifteen, with a peculiar style, reminded spectators of a famous player of generations before called Sean Hanley. The youngster was his grandson, and though the boy's name was James, he was readily dubbed "Sean Og," and the name stuck to him until the day of his death.

Growing rapidly, loose limbed and strong, the boy, like young Cuchullan, was rapidly promoted to the first team. At the age of 20 he was fit for inter-county work.

His first great game was against Young Irelands (Limerick) at Kilmallock, on a June day of 1896, where his sweeping drives, almost from goal to goal, were the outstanding feature of the game. Sean Og held his hurley with the right hand down—he was a natural left-hand man. His lift and turn were like lightning. His strength was prodigious.

Against Tullaroan in the All-Ireland final of 1897, Sean Og Hanley was the best man of the thirty-four. The name and fame of his prowess that day in Tipperary swept through Ireland from end to end.

Six feet one inch tall, he weighed around fourteen stone in his prime. Quiet as a child, he depended on his art with the caman rather than bustling tactics to win his matches. His pucks out from goal were of surpassing length.

Coming to Dublin in 1899, he played for Commercials, but quickly crossed to London, and helped to build up the London Irish champion side of 1902-1904, which created such a sensation in defeating Cork and staggering Tipperary.

Sean Og was little suited to the fogs and fumes of London. A neglected cold found a weak spot, and the great hurler died early in his fifties, much esteemed and honoured.

A CORK DEFENDER

JAMES KELLEHER, Dungourney, Co. Cork.—This dapper man of a bare five feet and eight inches, was wide-shouldered and neatly built from head to ankle. Born in the Dungourney tillage lands, his early life was spent between the plough and the hunt. On Sundays he patronised his favourite caman game.

Hurling was second nature to Jim Kelleher. He soon found his place in Dungourney's first team, and helped them to race up to the Cork City sides, who were then very strong—Blackrock, St. Finnbarrs, and Redmonds. So when the Cork selectors sought an All-Ireland team, the East County back was tried and passed the acid test in brilliant fashion.

During the next ten years a Cork team without Jim Kelleher was like the play without Hamlet. He could play in any corner of the field, but settled down as centre or full back, as opportunity demanded.

Kelleher was certainly the brainiest back that ever came out of the South. His judgment was uncanny. He could sense a forward's movements and proceed to outplay him by brains rather than brawn. He could turn on his tracks like a hare.

He would dribble a ball round and round men before spinning clear in some mysterious way to lift and hit half a field's length. Not a rough man by any means, he was in every ruck; yet he was so nimble and quick that he was never hurt to my knowledge.

JAMES KELLEHER
(Cork)

Jim Kelleher would break any opposing team's heart. They might have three-quarters of the game, but Kelleher always blocked the way to the goal. He raced to wing or centre, as needs demanded. He would "play tig" with forwards and make them seem so foolish that he sent spectators into roars of laughter. Then, when opponents were tied into a knot, Kelleher would lift and drive to safety.

A brilliant horseman, he bred some of our best hunters, and won dozens of trophies across country.

A KILKENNY ROVER

MATT GARGAN, of Erin's Own, Kilkenny.—Tireless, artful rover; might be found anywhere on a hurling field from the backline to the parallelogram. His favourite spot was around midfield, crouching for falling balls, sweeping with unerring lefthanders on low ones; racing away to either wing when an opening offered; snapping flying balls with left palm shooting out like an octopus.

When men crashed in he was elusive, but Matt was 12½ stone of solid bone and sinew, and could take his part in close work when needed. His heavy mantle of sleek black hair and his "right hand down" grip distinguished him at once. He got immense length into his drives. He was, perhaps, Ireland's best centre-field man from 1908 to 1914, and shared in Noreside triumphs through their most brilliant years.

MATT GARGAN
(Kilkenny)

Coming along with half-a-dozen Erin's Own men to help Mooncoin and Tullaroan in 1910, Matt Gargan soon ran into the forefront of Irish Hurlers.

His most remarkable feat was that sensational goal from midfield in 1912, which won the All-Ireland for Kilkenny, when Cork seemed well set for victory. Matt's son is now prominent for Kilkenny Juniors, and has all the speed and resource of his father.

The elder Matt is still hale and strong. A skilful craftsman, he occupies an important post under road construction schemes. He is often seen at Croke Park, and never misses a big Kilkenny inter-county game. Looking hale and brave and strong, he could still swing ash with effect. In his prime he was the brightest star in a constellation which lit the hurling heavens in a record stretch from 1906 to 1914.

LED FOR 20 YEARS

BOB MOCKLER, Tipperary and Dublin.—Playing in All-Ireland Championships without a break from 1910 to 1930, Bob Mockler's stretch of twenty years in first-class hurling has few equals in consistency and distinction.

Away back in 1910 Bob was shining with the famous Horse and Jockey team in handball and hurling, yet the muscular youth with powerful control of ash awaited till 1917 for his first All-Ireland medal. Coming to Dublin in his prime of life, he quickly ran into the select group of Irish hurlers, helping the Faugh-a-Ballagh Club through many important championships.

Midfield was Bob's natural place. His superb physique, his speed, his unerring judgment, and his fine control of ash made him the most spoken of centrefield man of his day. It was the irony of things that he should have taken a big share in the defeat of his native county in the 1917 final.

ROBERT MOCKLER
(Dublin and Tipperary)

Ever since he has been the pillar of the game in the metropolis. A hurler from his infancy, Bob Mockler played with head and hand in unison. His command of falling balls and his mighty length of puck often sent crowds into ecstasies.

Bob was an expert at 70's and frees at all distances. At Croke Park (156 yards) I have seen Mockler score from far behind the halfway. For curiosity I measured a ball of his one day after a match in which he pointed a free. It was 98½ yards clear.

A great judge of a man or a team, Bob Mockler's advice was eagerly sought after in Council. He captained the Faughs when they won the 1920 championship from a Midleton selection representing Cork, and he played with Dublin for ten years more before retiring.

He is still active, for he keeps himself in good shape with regular handball. He is one of the best exponents of hard and soft ball in Dublin County.

A GREAT FAMILY

Coughlan Family of Blackrock, Cork.—Perhaps these were the most famous hurling family in G.A.A. history. There were Patrick (Parson), Denis (Lyonsie), Big Dan, Tom (Honest Man), and Big Jer—five powerful men and great natural hurlers who helped to put Blackrock's name on the hurling map around the border of the centuries.

Salmon fishing on the River Lee was their livelihood. The Coughlan family were licensed boat owners for many a day, and no name is more revered in and around the "fishing village."

All were men of outstanding physique and courage. Until roused they were meek, gentle men; yet woe betide the man who took an unfair advantage of a Coughlan. Pat Coughlan, then Dan, and afterwards Tom, led the Blackrock men through successive championships.

EUGENE COUGHLAN
(Cork)

All favoured the back positions, where their strength and accuracy were of full purpose. Parson was, perhaps, the toughest man; Dan was the longest hitter; Denis was a neat, sweet striker, and nimble too. Tom, the youngest, perhaps combined the art of all.

The Coughlans were born leaders of men. A word from one of them was more than a speech from another. In Blackrock hurling councils their word was law. All steady, sober, industrious men, their names stand high in Cork citizenship.

Their children have helped to keep alive their great name. Parson's sons, Eugene and John, were through many All-Irelands with Cork, and "Hughie" Coughlan through the 1931 series against Kilkenny played with such pace, earnestness, and brilliancy, that he was considered by many the greatest hurler of his time.

WEXFORD'S HERO

SEAN O'KENNEDY, of New Ross, Wexford.—No more picturesque figure graced Irish fields in this period than Sean O'Kennedy of New Ross. A natural aptitude for games made him equally skilful at hurling or football. Coming to Dublin as a schoolboy, he early threw his lot in with Rathmines, then an offshoot of the Gaelic League.

Stretching rapidly in inches and avoirdupois, he was soon in the first rank. But it was after his return to business in his home town that his fame rang throughout the Association.

Sean O'Kennedy was a dominating personality in mind as well as physique. He often cycled seventy miles per Sunday to train the hurling and football teams of Wexford. His astute mind directed the plan of campaign, and his word was law.

As a hurler, he played full back almost invariably. Here his immense

power and physique were fully utilised. He had a loose, easy style with his ash; using either hand well, he specialised in drop-pucks, and established a kind of "drop-puck" vogue for a period.

SEAN O'KENNEDY.
(Wexford)

His direction of the field in front was masterful. He never erred in judgment, his directions at half-time and his rapid changing of one man's place to another's frequently won big matches.

A delightful companion and pleasant singer of Irish ballads, this fine type of Celtic manhood took a big part in the Sinn Fein movement from 1915 onwards. Imprisoned more than once, his health was impaired for several years, but he is now fully recovered, and can be seen directing operations with every Wexford side that leaves the Slaney on championship bent.

Sean O'Kennedy led Wexford footballers throug their record series of victories from 1915 to 1918. His tatics and strategy were superb. His faculty for finding the weak patches on an opposing team was famous.

All round, Sean O'Kennedy had few equals on field or council. He is amongst the select few who hold All-Ireland medals in both hurling and football.

"FOX" MAHER of Kilkenny.—All Ireland was shocked round Christmastide at the news of his death, for all Ireland loved "Fox" Maher. He belonged to the last generation but his name lived on with a certain fascination to all lovers of good hurling.

For "Fox" Maher was on a hurling plane of his own; the greatest back and goalkeeper of the renaissance which marked the border centuries. What Michael Maher was to Tipperary "Fox" of that powerful Celtic clan of Ormonde was to Kilkenny.

P. MAHER ("FOX")
(Kilkenny)

Through the years when Munster was still dominant, with successive champions from Tipp, Cork and Limerick, Kilkenny was a growing danger and "Fox" Maher was the menace to the conquering men of the south. Tall, square, well turned; a hurler to his finger tips, his good-looking countenance typified the hurling type such as Sean Keating or Jack Yeats would love to paint. A grand natural striker off either hand, he never dallied in possession. He could hold up the most formidable group of attackers with his wide shoulders, bony hips, and bold courage. He could drive ground balls a whole field's length. And he could stop a flying ball dead on the line before scouting and swinging clear.

Down Kilkenny way, "Fox" Maher was a personality—a hurler for all to copy, a stylist for all to study. Quiet and unobtrusive, he was the drollest of pleasant company. When Celtics wanted a peerless defender for their trip to Glasgow, they sought Maher he played a noble part. He had his romance, too, for he loved with a Gael's intensive faithfulness, though for him it meant exile. He travelled far and wide but returned to his old home in Tullaroan to teach the boys by word and example. He never missed a match.

At Croke Park he was a familiar figure with Drug Walsh and Rochford and Sim Walton—still the same quiet, gentle "Fox" Maher that the hurlers revered.

Dia go deo leis.

MICHAEL GILL and MICHAEL KING of Galway.—This powerful pair of namesakes and chums represent all the best of Galway hurling. Coming to the limelight together as striplings, together they rose to fame. Gill stayed on to be one of the greatest and most consistent midfielders that modern Irish hurling has known.

King's brilliant hurling career was nipped in the bud before the fulness of his prime when he took that shattering accidental knee-crash at Croke Park. He tried to play on like some hero of a Spartan saga, until taken off to spend a year in hospital. At Tailteann and Railway Cup, King was the Cuchulan of the side, and his endless work for the Gaels' games in Connacht has to some extent compensated for his physical injury, now repaired.

M. GILL (Galway) M. KING (Galway)

Gill helped to build the Garda and held them on the peak of hurling for many years. Strong, cool, canny, and a glorious hurler, he has kept Galway's name high despite many difficulties of Geographical position.

Many will put Gill alongside Mockler, Hurley and Meagher as midfield peers. His command of falling balls was deadly and he hit from either hand with equal freedom and confidence.

He has come through many a rough hour unscathed, and though on the wane and slowing, his craft is still with him.

King has returned to first class hurling; with Harney, Dervan and Finn he has played a big part in helping Galway's manly part in keeping the hurling standard flying west of the Shannon, where competition is negligible and talent confined.

A KERRY WONDER-BOY.

B. Reidy (Tralee), playing in goal, has won three All-Ireland Minor Football Championships with Kerry, who defeated Louth in the 1931 final, Laoighis in the 1932 final, and Mayo in the 1933 final.

ULSTER BOYS' HONOUR.

Ulster are holders of the Colleges All-Ireland Senior Football Championship for 1932 and 1933. The following selection gave a wonderful display against Munster in the final at Croke Park last year:—E. McDonnell (capt.) (Enniskillen), K. McAlinden (goal) (St. Malachy's, Belfast), W. R. Kelly, P. J. Smith, R. J. O'Reilly (Cavan), P. Crilly, A. Colohan, P. Campbell, F. Slevin (Armagh), R. Rabbitt (Newry), E. J. Lennon, P. F. Keelaghan, P. McGuigan, G. Campbell, J. J. Casley (Monaghan).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"The Story of the G.A.A." by Thomas F. O'Sullivan, a well known Irish journalist, was first published in serial form in the "Evening Telegraph," and came out in book form in 1916.

The book, now rare, is a mine of information for every student of the history of the G.A.A., and some of the contributors to this souvenir number are indebted to the work for many facts and references.

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The Romance of thirty-five years' research which lies behind the striking articles on epilepsy contained in the new edition of Dr. Niblett's work should be carefully read by all who are interested in this subject.

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John O'Leary 1886
(Oliver Sheppard – Bronze – Dublin Art Gallery)

William O'Brien m.p. 1888

Portraits of the two other Patrons, His Eminence Cardinal MacRory, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, and His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, will be found on other pages of this publication.

SOME GREAT FOOTBALL FINALS OF THE PAST

CONTESTS THAT MADE HISTORY

GAELIC football has undergone an evolution no less pronounced than hurling; and in stretching my selected list of finals over a longer period than I had in view the welcome advance in football through the Northern and Western Provinces. Through the first half of the G.A.A.'s 50 years of busy life, an Ulster or Connacht county rarely entered into the championship with reasonable hope of success.

Indeed, it was not until 1911 that we saw a football final without Leinster and Munster in monotonous opposition. In that year Antrim's fine rally brought them into the Croke Park final against Lees, of Cork. Ulster had an enthusiastic following and a rousing reception that day. They lost by a big score, but they blazed the trail for a series of Northern and Western challenges which culminated in Cavan's glorious victory over Galway in 1933, having on their way dethroned the Kerry invincibles of four years' unbroken triumphs.

In the early years of the G.A.A. football was played with teams of 21; a goal wiped out all minor scores; wrestling and tripping were permitted, and headlong rushes of grouped forwards were featured. Very exciting it was, somewhat resembling American or Rugby football of to-day.

THE FIRST CHAMPIONS.

Limerick Commercials were first champions—a powerful side of great dash and courage. Then came the more skilled and resourceful Young Irelands, of Dublin, who captured the 1891, 1902, and 1904 championships, with the Laune Rangers, of Kerry, their stoutest opponents. Bohercrowe and Arravale Rovers (Tipperary), Kickhams and Geraldines (Dublin), Dunmanway, Midleton, and Droumtariffs (Cork), and the Clonmel Shamrocks followed with teams of fine physique, pluck, and stamina, to be succeeded by the Bray Emmets and Isles of the Sea (Dublin)—grand footballers all.

Gaelic football suffered some serious set-backs about that time. Objections, unfinished local games, and frequent disorderly scenes impaired its progress. A new spirit came with the dawn of the century. Refereeing became more strict and rules more specific. The number of players was reduced from 21 to 17; pitches were better kept; a more sporting spirit developed, and the administration definitely improved.

Even so, Gaelic football was in a parlous state when Kildare and Kerry first met in an All-Ireland final. These counties had built up two very distinct styles, though both favoured the open game as distinct from combined centre-field rushes goalwards with the ball at their toes—typical of the earlier champions.

CHANGE OF STYLE.

Dublin had instituted the sound methods of catch, swing clear and kick. Kildare and Kerry cultivated and improved on these basic features. The Kingdom men brought thoughtful, accurate kicking alternately to wing and centre with brainy shooting within range. Kildare, handling as soundly as their Dublin mentors, introduced well-conceived passing by hand and foot in attack with weaving movements in unison around goal. Both sides developed and encouraged fleetness of foot, and their historic meetings in the 1903 championship opened up a new epoch of popularity in Gaelic football. It is with this memorable meeting of the Kingdom "stars" and the All Whites in 1905 that I propose to deal in detail (1), and jump rapidly to two other great finals, viz.—(2) The Wexford v. Kerry final of 1914; (3) The Kildare v. Cavan game of 1928.

In the intervening years I have watched many absorbing finals which space alone puts outside detailed description. Connacht football improved rapidly from 1910 forward. Mayo Stephens had startled Kerry in their halcyon years, and Galway gave Dublin's highly-graded team a great game in the 1922 final. That was a blustery day in October, 1923, and our internal political troubles had riven our people. Naturally, our games lost interest, yet there was a fine muster of 14,000. Galway led in the third quarter per Roche and Walsh (the famous "Knacker" Walsh, of Ballinasloe), but Norris, McDonald, Donovan, Synnott, and Carey swung the game round in Dublin's favour. Paddy Carey's wonderful point through a gusty wind from the "50" mark clinched the game.

ULSTER'S BID FOR HONOURS

DUBLIN'S SUCCESS.

Dublin had a great run of success round the 1920 to 1924 period, with O'Tooles and St. Marys clubs at great strength. Joe Norris, Pat Carey, the Synnott brothers, Frank Burke, Bill Donovan—all brilliant footballers—helped to revive the glamour of the Young Ireland days. Tipperary's sturdy side won in 1920, but three of the next four finals stayed at headquarters.

Kickhams' victories in 1906 and 1907, with Geraldines in 1908, brought rousing finals against Cork and London, whilst Louth's great years of 1910, 1912, and 1917 added a new name to the list of winning counties.

A county close to championship honours for many years without All-Ireland honours is Laoighis. Recent defeats of Kildare show how sturdy the Midlanders are, whilst our Meath friends, capturing the National League of 1933 and defeating the

FAMOUS KERRY TEAM THAT MADE HISTORY

KERRY'S FIRST ALL-IRELAND TEAM—1903.

Back Row: J. P. O'Sullivan, E. J. O'Neill, D. Breen, D. Curran, D. McCarthy, M. Murray. Second Row: Jno. O'Gorman, James O'Gorman, J. Myers, C. Healy, R. Kirwan, M. McCarthy, E. O'Sullivan (President Co. Board), T. F. O'Sullivan (Hon. Sec. Co. Board). Front Row: W. Lynch, R. Fitzgerald, F. O'Sullivan, T. O'Gorman (capt.), P. Dillon, J. T. Fitzgerald, A. Stack. On the Ground: I. Buckley and D. Kissane.

Cavan champions, is further evidence of Gaelic football's widespread popularity as I write.

1903

KERRY-KILDARE FINAL

Through 1903, 1904, and 1905 Kildare County boasted two brilliant Gaelic clubs—Clane and Roseberry. Local games developed high talent and polish. They came through their Leinster ties with flying colours, and were strongly fancied for the All-Ireland title when they travelled to Tipperary on July 23, 1905.

At the same period Kerry, with the old Laune Rangers' traditions behind them, were experiencing a wonderful football revival. Tralee (Mitchels), led by that pure-souled patriot, Austin Stack (Beannacht Dé leis), were a grand side. Killarney, with R. Fitzgerald (Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam) as leader, were speedy and skilful opponents. Between these towns rivalry was deadly keen; when they combined forces, calling in Paddy Kirwan (the Castleisland and Waterford athlete) and Breen, they were a formidable group which swept the Munster fields. With the late Pat McGrath as referee, it was a thrilling game in Tipperary town which ended at 1-4 to 1-3 in Kerry's favour. Close to full time the ball hit a spectator before a score, and both teams, in a sporting spirit, agreed to a replay in Cork.

So a bright August Sunday in 1905 found record contingents and nation-wide enthusiasm which outshone all G.A.A. fixtures before that date. I had come by push bicycle from Duhallow, and vividly recall the bright, picturesque contingents. From every town, village, island and hamlet in Kerry high-spirited Kerrymen travelled. Glanmire terminus teemed with Kingdom men of all ages sporting the green and gold badges carrying the clarion call, "Up Kerry," in bold letters It became a historic slogan, side by side with the euphonious native war-cry, "Ciaraidhe Abu!" Wonderful crowds, these; they came in glorious holiday spirit and swept Cork City off its feet.

THE RIVAL TEAMS.

The Kildare and Leinster men were more subdued, but their trains were well filled, and their neat all white favours were much in evidence, mingling in good-humoured streams with the green and gold streamers of the South-Western Gaeltacht. The rival teams were:—

Kerry—T. O'Gorman (capt.), J. O'Gorman, D. Curran, M. McCarthy, C. Healy, J. Buckley, J. J. Fitzgerald, C. Duggan, A. Stack (Tralee), R. Fitzgerald, P. Dillon (goal), D. Kissane, D. McCarthy, W. Lynch, J. Myers (Killarney), R. Kirwan, D. Breen (Castleisland).

Kildare—J. Fitzgerald (goal), J. Murray, J. Gorman, M. Donnelly, E. Kennedy, M. Fitzgerald, R. Murray, J. Scott, Joyce Conlon (Roseberry), L. Cribbin, J. Rafferty, W. Merriman, W. Bracken, W. Losty, M. Kennedy, J. Dunne, J. Wright (Clane).

Cork's Lower Park grounds were the Mecca of endless streams of outside cars and pedestrians who blackened the long Marino avenue beside the Lee River. Twelve thousand spectators were present when Mr. M. F. Crowe (a constructive young Limerick City man who had made his name as a referee in Dublin) threw in the ball. Kildare won the toss and opened brilliantly. The perfect fielding and long, accurate kicking of Cribbin, Merriman, and Rafferty in defence surprised spectators, whilst the artistic footwork of Losty, Conlon, Bracken, and Scott in front was a revelation to those who thought Gaelic football a game of strength and force alone.

Kerry were not to be outdone in skill, however. The O'Gorman pair were nimble-wingers with grand hands. Stack was a tireless ranger and director of operations. McCarthy, Kirwan and Myers kicked that new yellow ball half a field's length, and in front of all was the tall, rangy scoring brain with craft and art—Dick Fitzgerald—the peerless goal-getter and deadly drop-kicker, who revolutionised football attack.

KERRY LEAD.

Kerry had an early point. Kildare balanced. Kerry got number two from long range. The ball flew from end to end. Tackling was fierce but honest. Kildare forwards seemed to have a string tied to the ball. Fitzgerald opened the way for Kerry's third, but the men from the Curragh, playing delightful football, balanced with three smart points. Near the half way Kerry were aggressive. Their confident handling and perfect placing set the score 5 to 3 in their favour at half-time.

The ball had burst, and a new one equally lively was requisitioned. Kerry used the wind from Blackrock to good purpose. From Fitzgerald's drive Buckley added Kerry's sixth minor when he charged Donnelly's clearance amidst great excitement. Fitzgerald's brilliancy helped Lynch to score Kerry's seventh point, and the game looked as good as over.

A THRILLING FINISH.

Kildare never relaxed. Larry Cribbin's defence was masterful. J. Fitzgerald held his goal safe. Close to the end Kildare's grand forwards got away to set the score at 4 to 7. Conlon and Losty were still dangerous. Then, four minutes from the end, the All White men, from a sweeping ball by Rafferty, tore downfield at lightning pace. Losty, on the right, raced clean away, and reached the 21 yards mark before swinging a perfect centre in. Conlon and Kennedy pounced on it, and before Dillon realised it the ball was in the net for the only goal of the hour. Excitement was indescribable. Placid Leinstermen, who were prepared for defeat, jumped and gesticulated wildly. The ball was kicked out. Spectators were on their feet. They crowded round Referee Crowe, who had refereed in a masterly way at sprinting pace, and then collapsed. Excited spectators and players stormed him with questions, and there was a sigh of relief when a draw was announced—Kerry, 7 pts.; Kildare, 1 gl. 4 pts. (7). How the teams came back on October 13 and Kerry won by 8 pts. to 2 on a sodden pitch is a story for another day. Gaelic football got a new lease of life from that wonderful drawn game which electrified Irish sportsmen and gave the G.A.A. a new urge in the onward march of the nation.

1914

WEXFORD DRAW WITH KERRY

Gaelic football in Wexford had been through many viscissitudes since the days of the old Blues and Whites. Around 1912 and 1913 there was a great recovery in hurling and football at Slaneyside. Shaun Kennedy, his brother Gus, and Paddy Mackey, of New Ross; P. D. Breen and Jem Byrne, of the famous Blackwater country, had built up a fine organisation. Kerry had beaten them in the 1913 final, but they swept through Leinster for the second time of a long series in 1914, beating Meath, Kilkenny, Dublin, and Louth by decisive scores.

Kerry, returning with all their old glamour, and led by the irrepressible Dick Fitzgerald, had a stormy passage through Munster, where football was at high pitch in those years. Tipperary were only beaten after a draw, and a Cork side of fine physique held Kerry to level terms in the first half before the Kingdom generalship won. The final again attracted a huge attendance (estimated at 15,000), despite gloomy weather. I had travelled from Munster through Saturday's torrents of rain, so was not surprised to find the pitch heavy. Both teams had trained assiduously, and the packed attendance were thrilled by one of the most exciting and absorbing games ever staged by the G.A.A. We had learnt early on that Wexford's great back, the revered Fr. Wheeler, had declared off. Kerry were also disturbed by the absence of their veteran stone wall defender, Maurice McCarthy, of Tralee. Yet thirty good men and true lined up under Harry Boland's whistle before a keyed-up concourse closely packed in every available vantage point:—

Kerry—D. Fitzgerald (capt.), W. Doyle, J. Skinner, W. Mahony, C. Murphy, P. Healy, H. Murphy, C. Clifford, T. Rice, P. Breen, J. Lawlor, D. Mullins (goal), T. Costelloe, W. Keating, Pat O'Shea.

Wexford—Sean O'Kennedy (capt.) T. McGrath (goal), T. Murphy, P. J. Mackey, J. Byrne, P. D. Breen, T. Doyle, T. Mernagh, P. Murphy, J. Doyle, J. Mullaly, R. Reynolds, Gus Kennedy, J. Rossiter, A. Doyle.

WEXFORD'S METHODS.

We had heard much of Wexford's improvement, but were unprepared for their machine-like methods and superb understanding in defence and attack. Breen at once fed his forwards. Lawlor cleared with a herculean punt. When the elusive Skinner swung a centre to the Wexford goalmouth McGrath saved confidently. A breeze aided Wexford, who pressed home hot attack after attack. Mullins cleared confidently, and Con Clifford fed Skinner. Fitzgerald wove his way in to hit the net-side with an unlucky shot.

Then came delightful combined work by Wexford. Byrne's frees were harassing Kerry's gallant backs when Mullaly parted a hot one to Sean O'Kennedy, who promptly banged into the net for Wexford's opening goal.

Kerry's fifteen named above probably read the most brilliant group of footballers that ever contested a championship. Yet, they were well held at all vital points. When "Fitz" shot hard and low for goal—McGrath saved soundly. Once more Breen's electric speed on Wexford's right wing brought the ball to S. O'Kennedy whose immense bulk helped him to burst through for a second Wexford goal. Kerry were roused. O'Shea was going up heavens high for balls. Rice was immense. Clifford took a ball in its flight on the right and consoled Kerrymen with a minor near the half-way respite.

KERRY'S BRILLIANCE.

Anything like the hurricane reopening of the revivified Kerry men was never seen before in a Gaelic field. They seemed galvanised with energy. O'Shea sent to Fitzgerald, who parted to Breen for a great goal, and within two minutes Con Murphy came from nowhere to swing Kerry's second point across.

With only a point separating the teams, their followers shouted them on. Aiden Doyle had a long wing run. Wexford's close passing held us enthralled. Humphrey Murphy, Lawlor, and Tom Costelloe played grand football in Kerry's back line, and at five minutes to go Wexford still led by the narrowest margin.

It was Greek meeting Greek in that last quarter-hour through the gathering dusk. Were Kerry's galaxy of stars to go down at last? In a last desperate effort Fitzgerald was almost through when fouled on the 21 yards mark. You could hear a pin fall as he approached the ball. One

MICHAEL CUSACK AS FOOTBALLER

BEFORE THE G.A.A. WAS FOUNDED—THE PHOENIX F.C. 1st XV. OF 1881-'82.

Back (left to right): C. S. Bowles, R. W. Ellis, E. H. Waring, R. H. Lowry, W. M. Russell, F. E. Rainsford, E. J. O'Reilly and E. O. Bailey. Sitting: V. Guerrini, M. Cusack (founder of the G.A.A.), R. Code, G. A. Drought, T. Askin (capt.), G. Paton, M. Sweeney.

minute to go; a point behind. He gauged his ground well, measured the greasy ball, and drove well above the barrier for the momentous equaliser. The whistle called! Wexford had lost their glorious chance! Kerry came on November 29 with fresh heart to live up to their unbeaten reputation in replays and win by a tall score. Wexford were not downhearted. On the contrary, they returned in 1915 to open up that record sequence of four successive championships, which is not yet eclipsed, though equalled by Kerry in the 1930 to 1933 series of recent memory.

1928

GREAT BID BY CAVAN

Ever since the Cavan Slashers rivalled their North Leinster neighbours, the Pierce Mahonys, of Navan, Gaelic football was popular in the Breffni country. Competition in Ulster, however, was weak, and honours were slow in coming. They had won the bulk of the Ulster titles, and held on tenaciously, despite frequent disappointment to extend Kildare and Dublin in the 1923 to 1926 years. Indeed, they were unlucky to lose to Kerry by narrow margins in 1923 and 1925, and the fates seemed against them on more than one occasion.

A fine leader in Jem Smith, of the Irish Tailteann selection, gave them new heart in 1924, and they had a big following from our historic Northern Province when they lined out against Kildare on September 30, 1928. They had sailed through the Ulster championship, beating Antrim, Tyrone, and Armagh before winning from Sligo (Connacht champions) decisively.

Kildare had drawn with Kerry in 1926 (with the usual Kingdom luck, or pluck, in replays), but had won well in 1927, and were in the final for the third successive year, having beaten Leix, Longford, Dublin, and Cork in earnest contests. The Kildare side were:—W. Gannon (capt.), M. Walshe (goal), M. Buckley, M. Goff, A. Fitzpatrick, F. Malone, J. Higgins, J. Hayes, J. and P. Loughlin, P. Martin, Paul Doyle, W. Mangan, J. Curtis, F. Keogh.

Cavan's exiled county men in America had sent a substantial sum for their training fund. It was well utilised. Mr. Paddy Carey, the O'Toole All-Ireland captain, took charge of the team at Slieve Russell House, and they were as fit a team as ever donned jerseys on the momentous day. Cavan's stalwarts:—J. Smith (capt.), J. Morgan (goal), T. Campbell, H. Clegg, J. J. Clarke, H. Mulvaney, P. Lynch, H. O'Reilly, P. Devlin, J. Murphy, A. Conlon, C. Farrelly, W. Young, W. A. Higgins, G. Malcolmson.

A MEMORABLE DAY.

Associated with the All-Ireland title of that year was the Sam Maguire Memorial Cup, a beautiful hand-wrought trophy of Celtic design presented by some admirers of the old London-Irish captain, who died a martyr to his great struggle for Irish freedom through troubled years at home and in exile.

The Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, had a great ovation as he threw the ball in. The game opened at a lightning pace with Cavan "all out" for victory. Inside four minutes Devlin's sailing point was a good augury for the North. Higgins shot again. After Lynch and Smith were prominent, Cavan, playing with fine spirit, ran up two fast points per Murphy and Devlin.

Kildare were outplayed for a session, but settled down to their usual polished football. Keogh had a point, and a free by Higgins was snapped up by Mangan for a goal and Kildare's lead.

At a great pace Kildare passed and repassed in bewildering overhead movements, and though Lynch defended stoutly for Cavan, the splendid artistry of Kildare helped Doyle to set the score at 1 goal 2 points to 3 points (Cavan) at the change of sides.

The football through the third quarter was of a high standard. Smith's flying point narrowed the gap before Doyle found a wonderful scoring medium in placed balls from all angles. At the threequarter way the score read:—Kildare, 1 goal 4 points; Cavan, 4 points.

SENSATIONAL FINISH.

Kildare were hard pressed now. Devlin parted to Young, and, like lightning, Cavan's speedy forward flashed the ball to the net behind Walsh. A thousand Northern throats greeted the green flag and level scoring. When Devlin seized the kickout to part for Farrell to point Ulster enthusiasm knew no bounds.

The finish was sensational. Paul Doyle, from a free, shot a perfect ball to P. Loughlin at the goalmouth, and a swing of the Rathdangan man's arms saw the ball in the net. To this day the Cavan backs cannot be convinced that the ball was not thrown. The flag went up, and the hectic game proceeded. Doyle had a point like a rifle shot from a free to earn a goal lead, but, before spectators settled down, Cavan were away in a last grand rally to help Devlin to race past and shoot the balancing goal two minutes from the end! Then came Cavan's tragedy, for another free was placed for the unerring Doyle to drop across a point which gave Kildare the game. Cavan had the cup once more dashed from their lips, and memories of their hard luck in 1928 helped to swell the cheers which greeted Jem Smith last September when he linked us up more closely than ever with the North in taking Cup and Championship to the Province of Cuchulain, O'Neill, and O'Donnell for the first time in G.A.A. history.

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MEN WHO WERE IDOLS OF THE CROWD

Following is a series of cameo sketches of some great footballers of the past and present:—

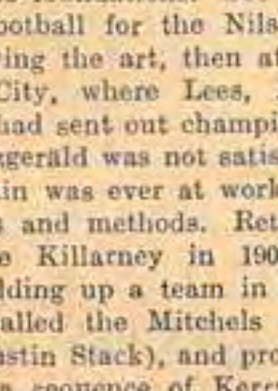
KERRY'S HERO

DICK FITZGERALD, of Killarney.—Meet him, a slim student of Presentation Brothers' College, Cork, in the late 'nineties; a football genius in any code. A born optimist and wit; perpetual smile on his homely face; always mocking, larking, and philandering. Yet there was depth behind his effervescing surface.

A big-hearted, self-sacrificing Irishman to his foundations. See him later playing football for the Nils of Cork, and studying the art, then at its peak in Cork City, where Lees, Nils, and O'Briens had sent out champion sides.

But Fitzgerald was not satisfied. His active brain was ever at work evolving new plans and methods. Returning to his native Killarney in 1903, he set about building up a team in Killarney hwich rivalled the Mitchels of Tralee (under Austin Stack), and proceeded to open up a sequence of Kerry football history which has continued right down to our own time.

Dick had all the faculties of a master forward. Perfect hands and feet; skilful dribbler; wonderful judgment, and brainy leader of the whole team's plan of campaign.



The LATE R. FITZGERALD
(Kerry)

At his best, Fitzgerald was the terror of backs. He could screw-kick points from all angles; was most unselfish; thought quick as lightning, and generally did the unexpected thing. Yet every movement had one object only—scores. And he got them in abundance, leading Kerry through a brilliant series from 1905 to 1915.

His activities in the national cause brought him much hardship and frequent imprisonment. Like many another, his health suffered, and he died in his fiftieth year. A powerful man in debate, and a ready pleader for his country, his advice always carried weight. His exploits on the playing pitch and outside it would fill volumes. His name is a household word in Kerry, and he remains the centre-forward par excellence for all to copy.

His fine height helped Fitzgerald to field balls at all angles, and he never missed one. His place-kicking was a marvel of accuracy, and he could shoot from long and short ranges with speed and judgment. As a team leader his resource was endless, and has changed defeat into victory by one subtle thought of his resourceful brain.

A CORK GENIUS

WILLIE MACKESSY, Cork.—It is difficult to know whether to write of Mackessy amongst the select group of hurlers or footballers. Yet I think his football genius was the more pronounced, though he learned hurling from the cradle in his native Duhallow.

It was with Kinsale he first came into prominence, then shone for Lees and Blackrock through many All-Ireland Championships. Standing round the 5-8 mark, Mackessy was sturdily built. His speed brought him much success on the athletic track, and served him well in his favourite position as right scorer, which he always favoured.

Mackessy had marvellous control of a ball. His dribbling was a revelation, and his anticipation took him to all sorts of places in search of scores.

W. MACKESSY
(Cork)

A deadly shot with either foot, his screw-kicks from the corner flag were always on the mark. Even Dick Fitzgerald himself, in his book on Gaelic Football speaks of Mackessy as a crack winger. Mackessy's swerving, weaving runs, his swaying, elusive body, his drop-kicks like bullet shots, and the perfect polish of his work around goal were bywords in the football of his period.

Bill Mackessy was a sincere clubman and faithful friend. An all-round sportsman, he takes a great interest in coursing, and bred some high-class greyhounds. A man of wonderful energy and initiative, he has built up very extensive businesses in Cork City. His hand is always reached out to the Gael in misfortune or out of work. He has befriended many a man and fed many a family through difficult times. Bill Mackessy was a peerless footballer and hurler, and his name looms large amongst Southern sportsmen.

A DUBLIN LEADER

PADDY McDONNELL, Dublin.—For fully twenty years the famous O'Toole captain has been in the Gaelic Football limelight. A keen Gaelic enthusiast since his youth, he has been the bulwark of the O'Toole's Club for a quarter of a century.

"Macker," as they call him, has been the builder and pillar of the team, rallying them when in danger, smoothing differences, and inspiring their work. No Irish-Ireland movement sought Paddy McDonnell in vain, and he did effective and dangerous work through the troubled years.

His giant height and powerful physique quickly sent him to the front in football. He was playing Senior Inter-County at nineteen. So strong was he that he has rarely been taken off his feet, and never knocked out to my knowledge. His kindliness, his good nature, his generosity, his sportsmanship endear him to all.

PADDY McDONNELL
(Dublin)

Round centre-field or centre-forward was his favourite place. Like all great footballers, he was cool and brainy. He did not seek the rough side of the game, but when forced upon him, Paddy Mac rarely came out second-best. Unselfish to a fault, Paddy Mac appeared to make scores for his colleagues rather than score himself. Yet when occasion offered he would come round from nowhere, and before the goalman knew, the ball was in the net.

Paddy McDonnell was the outstanding forward through Dublin's great period from 1920 to 1924. His strength was immense. And he always sought to elevate the game and the Association. Never guilty of an unmanly act or thought, the O'Toole Captain of many years' standing has done wonderful work for the Association.

Though a man of very few words, his opinions in council are sound and far-seeing. He invariably puts club over individual, county over club, province over county, and the G.A.A. over them all. His brother, John McDonnell, of the perpetual smile, is universally acknowledged to be Ireland's best football goalkeeper of recent years. When Tailteann selections were made, John McDonnell's place in goal was unanimous.

A FAMOUS FAMILY

JACK GRACE, of Dublin and Kilkenny.—One of the great Grace family of Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny, Jack Grace quickly distinguished himself on his arrival in Dublin a generation ago. At that time Kickhams were in the height of their glory. Drawn largely from the cream of our peasantry—most of them were sons of farmers in good circumstances, who became apprentices to the drapery profession in Dublin—

THE LATE JACK GRACE
(Kilkenny and Dublin)

the C. J. Kickhams became the most powerful club in the Association.

Perhaps most brilliant and versatile of all their stars was Jack Grace. Strong as a lion, of endless pluck and stamina, he could take rough and smooth with equal relish. He was fast, too, and fiery; yet, when occasion demanded it, he was cool and collected as an iceberg.

Along with his brothers, Pierce and Dick, he hurled in true Kilkenny style—neat and graceful. His football was robust yet polished, and he was Kickhams' outstanding back in their best years down to 1907 and 1908.

Jack Grace could punt a ball sixty yards off either foot. He would tear into a group of men and burst them asunder. He would race down field with the ball at his toe, and defy an opponent to bar his way.

Built on strong muscular lines, he had shoulders and hips of immense power. In those far-off days, when reckless charges for possession were the order, I have seen Jack Grace send men sprawling left and right as if they were nine-pins.

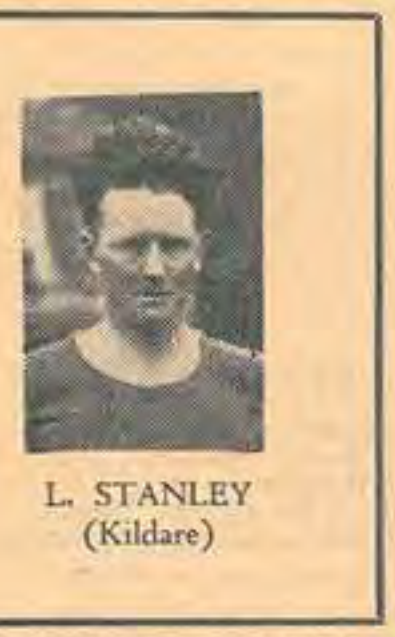
As a hurler he was a brilliant half-back who had probably the longest ground puck on a ball that the G.A.A. has ever known. I have seen him score in both games from behind the half-line. The football had a following wind, but the hurling score was made on a dead calm day.

Wonderful all-round man was Jack Grace. His power and energy; his cool ferocity in close work around centre; his quiet meekness in social circles—all are remembered in Gaeldom.

KILDARE WIZARD

LARRY STANLEY, of Kildare.—This super-athlete was perhaps the greatest artist that ever put foot to Gaelic ball. Born of football traditions, he just blossomed to manhood about the time that Kildare were staging their comeback after many lean years prior to 1919.

Larry Stanley was then barely twenty, but his name loomed large in Kildare football. Standing over six feet, he was



L. STANLEY
(Kildare)

strongly built all over. Add to this the fact that he was of sprinter's speed, and could jump 6 feet at 21, and you have some idea of his power and elasticity.

Yet Stanley's outstanding characteristic was his football brains. He did the most extraordinary things with a ball. He would spring up and reach for it. He would bring it down along one arm as if with a magnet, and swing round to shoot electric points or goals with an uncanny sense of direction.

His shock of unruly fair hair seemed a constant attraction for the ball. He was always in its line. Yet Stanley was not a rough man. In fact, he kept out of trouble if at all possible. His place-kicks within range were certain scores.

He could dribble a ball as neatly as a professional, and could swerve, too, on occasion.

Stanley stood out amongst the Leinster players of his period. He would flash out of nowhere to capture the ball out of the clouds. Once in his hands, the goalkeeper could look out. Naturally a right-legged man, Stanley developed his left leg to such purpose that he could score unexpected points with it from 60 yards.

A superb high jumper, his performance of 6 feet 4 against Osborne at the 1924 Tailteann still lives on the record books of Leinster. Like all athletic geniuses, Larry Stanley was erratic. He had his off-days, but they were few and far between. He remains one of our brainiest forwards of all time.

ULSTER'S PIONEER

JIM SMITH, Cavan.—Tall, handsome, clean-cut features, unruly black hair, broad-shouldered and deep of chest, wide of hip and thigh, neat of ankle; this is Jim Smith, of Cavan, Captain of the All-Ireland Champions of 1933.

Jim has been playing first-class football for fifteen years, and seems fit to play for fifteen more. He came to the Garda in 1923 with a big reputation in

JIM SMITH
(Cavan)

the North. A teacher by profession, he sought the freer, outdoor life of the new Civic body, and quickly built up a powerful football side in the Phoenix Park.

Smith's coolness and poise on all occasions are his outstanding characteristics. A smile rarely leaves his face on the field or off. It is a most disarming smile, innocent as a babe's. But woe betire the opponent who "tries it on" with Jim Smith.

His power and strength are surpassing; his hips have bowled over more sturdy men than any hips I know. His hands and feet are of gripping accuracy, and he can punt a ball, drop-kick, or screw it as long as any man in present-day football.

His favourite position is centre-field or centre-forward, where his 14½ stone are a useful asset. His profession has brought him to the aid of many counties, and he has been on Ireland's Tailteann selection since 1924.

For several years he has led Cavan's inter-county side with brains and brawn. The All-Ireland Championship was his ambition. Frequently the Cup was dashed from his lips. This year he secured it, and not one of the 50,000 spectators at Croke Park will forget the enthusiastic scenes which marked the presentation of the Sam Maguire Memorial Cup to one of the most perfect types of manhood which the G.A.A. has produced.

TWO MAYO STARS

SEAN LAVAN, of Mayo.—This was the fleetest footballer that ever came out of the West. We recall the brilliant Courell family, M. "Knacker" Walsh, the Shouldice family, Kirwan, Crean,

DR. S. LAVAN
(Mayo)

McGrath, Durcan, Donnellan, and a host of good footballers who kept the game alive across the Shannon, and visited us at Croke Park periodically, with fine courage and perseverance. Perhaps it was that we saw more of Sean Lavan during his College days, but he certainly made a profound impression.

It was Lavan introduced to us for the first time the short kick from foot to hand whilst the player still raced goalwards. Connacht inter-county men were particularly adept at this useful trick, and Sean Lavan, when he first tried it in Dublin, took backs completely unawares.

Sean Lavan's great faculty was his speed and swerve. Before he took to winning sprints on the track, his football pace was terrific. And he had great command of a ball in dribbling, whilst his left-legged swings from wing to uprights won many a game.

Standing slightly over six feet, Lavan was square-shouldered and sharply built, with racing limbs and rare chest capacity. When he turned his attention to track racing he swept all before him, winning national and international contests in record times.

GERALD COURELL, of Mayo.—Where the game is hottest a nimble youth with a shock of wavy hair would wriggle clear of a cluster of players and shoot from any angle. Without a look at the posts the ball sails high between the points. Or a flash like a kingfisher over a stream would find Gerald fastening on a stray ball close to touch—a lightning dribble and ground shot finds the net before backs have time to think.

Gerald Courell is youngest of the great Ballina family of Courells who have been the driving force in the famous Stephenite Club. Mr. Courell, senior, was its first President, and his brothers, Frank, Joe, and Bertie, were outstanding players with the Mayo teams that won the Croke Cup in 1907-8-9. It was Frank Courell who led the Mayo team right through to the All Ireland final against Wexford in 1916, and no finer player has come out of the West.

Gerald Courell came out of a schools team to senior football eight years ago, but it was around 1930 that his brilliant work and prolific scoring as left wing forward attracted general notice.

G. COURELL
(Mayo)

His pace, craft, elusiveness, and deadly shooting made him the terror of backs.

With the Mayo team who toured America in 1932, Gerald Courell was the star, scoring the amazing total of 28 points from five games. Even this record was eclipsed in Ireland in 1933. Against Sligo he kicked 1 goal and 7 points in a single game; and at Castlebar, against Kerry, he went one better, running up the astonishing total of 1 goal 8 points.

An All Ireland Tailteann player, Gerald has many brilliant years in front for he is on his 26th year.

A KERRY LEADER

JOHN JOE SHEEHY, of Kerry.—For what reason I know not, but I always keep John Joe Sheehy of Kerry and Jim Hurley of Cork in the same niche of memory. Both, six foot and fifteen stone men; both, hurlers and footballers; both, straight, manly, blunt on occasion; both, throwing all their young life into the National cause; venturing all; deserting all for An tSean Bhean Bhocht; coming back to adorn our National pastimes and Councils; both, brilliant in their professions. The only difference is the colour of their hair—the Carbery man is as fair as the Kingdom man is dark.

John Joe Sheehy, born in the football environs of Boherbuee, Tralee, perfected his art in jail, of all places. For the erstwhile peerless leader was through more than one war. On return to civil life, he opened up in 1923 such a brilliantly aggressive football career as few can aspire to. Going right through to nine All Ireland finals in ten years, Sheehy took the share of a Hercules in winning five of them, and left in 1932 "to make way for younger men" when yet in his football prime.

A man of commanding presence and singular intellect, he was a born leader. His word was law. He was loved and feared—loved by the clean of heart and feared by the erring ones of his flock.

As a footballer he was fast as a sprinter; strong as wrestler—cool and collected; always planning fresh moves in attack. He would go down field to

JOHN JOE SHEEHY
(Kerry)

rally men in an apparently lost game, rouse them to fresh endeavour and show them the road himself by tearing through for goals and points to victory. Grand hands, perfect feet, he could field or dribble in a masterful way. He would come into the picture in unexpected places and then the goalman could look out.

His unselfishness and kindliness to friend and foe alike were almost proverbial. Behind it all is the noble mind of the man, only known to intimate acquaintances. A thinker like Austin Stack, I think there is a big career in front.

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COMPLETE LIST OF ALL-IRELAND WINNERS

HURLING

Year.	Winner's Score.	Runners-up Score.	Place.	Date of match
1887—**Tipperary**, 1-1.		Galway, nil.	Birr.	April 1, 1888.
1888—Championship unfinished owing to G.A.A. teams' visit to U.S.A.				
1889—**Dublin**, 5-1.		Clare, 1-6.	Inchicore.	Nov. 3, 1889.
1890—**Cork**, 1-6.		Wexford, 2-2.	Clonturk.	Nov. 16, 1890.
Unfinished; Cork awarded match.				
1891—**Kerry**, 2-3.		Wexford, 1-5.	Clonturk.	Feb. 28, 1892.
1892—**Cork**, 2-4.		Dublin, 1-1.	Clonturk.	Mar. 26, 1893.
1893—**Cork**, 6-8.		Kilkenny, 0-2.	Phoenix Park.	June 24, 1894.
1894—**Cork**, 5-20.		Dublin, 2-0.	Clonturk.	Mar. 24, 1895.
1895—**Tipperary**, 6-8.		Kilkenny, 1-0.	Croke Park.	Mar. 15, 1896.
1896—**Tipperary**, 8-14.		Dublin, 0-4.	Croke Park.	Mar. 27, 1898.
1897—**Limerick**, 3-4.		Kilkenny, 2-4.	Tipperary.	Nov. 20, 1898.
1898—**Tipperary**, 7-13.		Kilkenny, 3-10.	Croke Park.	Mar. 25, 1900.
1899—**Tipperary**, 3-12.		Wexford, 1-4.	Croke Park.	Mar. 24, 1901.
1900—**Tipperary**, 5-7.		Galway, 0-1.	Terenure.	Sept. 21, 1902.
1901—**Cork**, 2-8.		Wexford, 0-6.	Carrick-on-Suir.	June 14, 1903.
1902—Draw—Cork, 1-7		Dublin, 1-7.	Tipperary.	July 3, 1904.
Replay—**Cork**, 2-6.		Dublin, 0-1.	Tipperary.	July 17, 1904.
1903—**Cork**, 8-9.		Kilkenny, 0-8.	Dungarvan.	July 16, 1905.
1904—**Kilkenny**, 1-9.		Cork, 1-8.	Carrick-on-Suir.	June 24, 1906.
1905—**Cork**, 5-10.		Kilkenny, 3-13.	Tipperary.	April 14, 1907.
Replay—**Kilkenny**, 7-7.		Cork, 2-9.	Dungarvan.	June 30, 1907.
1906—**Tipperary**, 3-16.		Dublin, 3-8.	Kilkenny.	Oct. 27, 1907.
1907—**Kilkenny**, 3-12.		Cork, 4-8.	Dungarvan.	June 21, 1908.
1908—Tipperary, 2-5.		Dublin, 1-8.	Croke Park.	April 25, 1909.
Replay—**Tipperary**, 3-15.		Dublin, 1-5.	Athy.	June 27, 1909.
1909—**Kilkenny**, 4-6.		Tipperary, 0-12	Cork.	Dec. 12, 1909.
1910—**Wexford**, 7-0.		Limerick, 6-2.	Croke Park.	Nov. 20, 1910.
1911—**Kilkenny**, w.o.		Limerick, scr.	Thurles.	April 21, 1912.
(Note—Limerick suspended for refusing to play elsewhere than Cork.)				
1912—**Kilkenny**, 2-1.		Cork, 1-3.	Croke Park.	Nov. 17, 1912.
1913—**Kilkenny**, 2-4.		Tipperary, 1-2.	Croke Park.	Nov. 2, 1913.
1914—**Clare**, 5-1.		Leix, 2-4.	Croke Park.	Oct. 18, 1914.
1915—**Leix**, 6-2.		Cork, 4-1.	Croke Park.	Oct. 24, 1915.
1916—**Tipperary**, 5-4.		Kilkenny, 3-2.	Croke Park.	Jan. 21, 1917.
1917—**Dublin**, 5-4.		Tipperary, 4-2	Croke Park.	Oct. 28, 1917.
1918—**Limerick**, 9-5.		Wexford, 1-3.	Croke Park.	Jan. 26, 1919.
1919—**Cork**, 6-4.		Dublin, 2-4.	Croke Park.	Sept. 21, 1919.
1920—**Dublin**, 4-9.		Cork, 4-3.	Croke Park.	May 14, 1922
1921—**Limerick**, 8-5.		Dublin, 3-2.	Croke Park.	Mar. 4, 1923.
1922—**Kilkenny**, 4-2.		Tipperary, 2-6.	Croke Park.	Sept. 9, 1923.
1923—**Galway**, 7-3.		Limerick, 4-5.	Croke Park.	Sept. 14, 1924.
1924—**Dublin**, 5-3.		Galway, 2-6.	Croke Park.	Dec. 14, 1924
1925—**Tipperary**, 5-6.		Galway, 1-5.	Croke Park.	Sept. 6, 1925.
1926—**Cork**, 4-6.		Kilkenny, 2-0.	Croke Park.	Oct. 24, 1926.
1927—**Dublin**, 4-8.		Cork, 1-3.	Croke Park.	Sept. 4, 1927.
1928—**Cork**, 6-12.		Galway, 1-0.	Croke Park.	Sept. 9, 1928.
1929—**Cork**, 4-9.		Galway, 1-3.	Croke Park.	Sept. 1, 1929.
1930—**Tipperary**, 2-7.		Dublin, 1-3.	Croke Park.	Sept. 7, 1930.
1931 (Draw)—Cork, 1-6.		Kilkenny, 1-6.	Croke Park.	Sept. 6, 1931.
1st Replay:—				
Draw—Cork, 2-5.		Kilkenny, 2-5.	Croke Park.	Oct. 11, 1931.
2nd Replay:—				
Cork, 5-8.		Kilkenny, 3-4.	Croke Park.	Nov. 1, 1931.
1932—**Kilkenny**, 3-3.		Clare, 2-3.	Croke Park.	Sept. 4, 1932.
1933—**Kilkenny**, 1-7.		Limerick, 0-6.	Croke Park.	Sept. 3, 1933.

FOOTBALL

Year.	Winner's Score.	Runners-up Score.	Place.	Date of match
1887—**Limerick**, 1-4.		Louth, 0-3	Clonskeagh.	April 29, 1888.
1888—Championships not finished owing to G.A.A. teams' visit to U.S.A.				
1889—**Tipperary**, 3-6.		Leix, nil.	Inchicore	Oct. 20, 1889.
1890—**Cork**, 2-4.		Wexford, 0-1.	Clonturk.	June 26, 1892.
1891—**Dublin**, 2-1.		Cork, 1-9.	Clonturk.	Feb. 28, 1892.
(Note—At that time points counted only if there was level scoring of goals.)				
1892—**Dublin**, 1-4.		Kerry, 0-3.	Clonturk.	Mar. 26, 1893.
1893—**Wexford**, 1-1.		Cork, 0-1.	Phoenix Park.	June 24, 1894.
1894—Draw—Dublin, 0-6.		Cork, 1-1.	Clonturk.	Mar. 24, 1895.
Replay—**Dublin**, 0-5.		Cork, 1-2.	Thurles.	April 21, 1895.
Unfinished—Dublin awarded the match.				
1895—**Tipperary**, 2-4.		Meath, 0-3.	Croke Park.	Mar. 15, 1896.
1896—**Limerick**, 1-5.		Dublin, 0-7.	Croke Park.	Feb. 6, 1898.
1897—**Dublin**, 2-6.		Cork, 0-2.	Croke Park.	Feb. 5, 1899.
1898—**Dublin**, 2-8.		Waterford, 0-4	Tipperary.	April 8, 1900.
1899—**Dublin**, 1-10.		Cork, 0-6	Croke Park.	Feb. 10, 1901.
1900—**Tipperary**, 2-20.		Galway, 0-1.	Terenure.	Sept. 21, 1902.
1901—**Dublin**, 1-2.		Cork, 0-4.	Tipperary.	July 5, 1903.
1902—**Dublin**, 0-6.		Tipperary, 0-5.	Kilkenny.	July 24, 1904.
1903—Kerry, 1-4.		Kildare, 1-3.	Tipperary.	July 23, 1905.
Replay ordered:—				
Kerry, 0-7.		Kildare, 1-4.	Cork.	Aug. 27, 1905.
Replay of Draw:—				
Kerry, 0-8.		Kildare, 0-2.	Cork.	Oct. 13, 1905.
1904—**Kerry**, 0-5.		Dublin, 0-2	Cork.	July 1, 1906.
1905—**Kildare**, 1-7.		Kerry, 0-5.	Thurles.	June 16, 1907.
1906—**Dublin**, 0-5.		Cork, 0-4	Athy.	Oct. 20, 1907.
1907—**Dublin**, 0-6.		Cork, 0-2.	Tipperary.	July 5, 1908.
1908—**Dublin**, 0-10.		Kerry, 0-3.	Thurles.	May 9, 1909.
1909—**Kerry**, 1-9.		Louth, 0-6.	Croke Park.	Dec. 5, 1909.
1910—**Louth**, w.o.		Kerry, scr.	Croke Park.	Nov. 13, 1913.
(Kerry had dispute with G.S.R. re railway facilities.)				
1911—**Cork**, 6-6.		Antrim, 1-2.	Croke Park.	Jan. 14, 1912.
1912—**Louth**, 1-7.		Antrim, 1-2.	Croke Park.	Nov. 3, 1912.
1913—**Kerry**, 2-2.		Wexford, 0-3.	Croke Park.	Dec. 14, 1913.
1914—Draw—Kerry, 1-3.		Wexford, 2-0.	Croke Park.	Nov. 1, 1914.
Replay—**Kerry**, 2-3.		Wexford, 0-6.	Croke Park.	Nov. 29, 1914.
1915—**Wexford**, 2-4.		Kerry, 2-1.	Croke Park.	Nov. 7, 1915.
1916—**Wexford**, 3-4.		Mayo, 1-2.	Croke Park.	Dec. 17, 1916.
1917—**Wexford**, 0-9.		Clare, 0-5.	Croke Park.	Dec. 9, 1917.
1918—**Wexford**, 0-5.		Tipperary, 0-4.	Croke Park.	Feb. 16, 1919.
1919—**Kildare**, 2-5.		Galway, 0-1.	Croke Park.	Sept. 29, 1919.
1920—**Tipperary**, 1-6.		Dublin, 1-2.	Croke Park.	June 11, 1922.
1921—**Dublin**, 1-9.		Mayo, 0-2.	Croke Park.	June 17, 1923.
1922—**Dublin**, 0-6.		Galway, 0-4.	Croke Park.	Oct. 6, 1923.
1923—**Dublin**, 1-5.		Kerry, 1-3.	Croke Park.	Sept. 28, 1924.
1924—**Kerry**, 0-4.		Dublin, 0-3.	Croke Park.	April 26, 1925.
1925—**Galway**. (Note—Ulster and Munster disqualified; Leinster beaten by Connacht, Galway Connacht champions.)				
1926—Draw—Kerry, 1-3.		Kildare, 0-6.	Croke Park.	Sept. 5, 1926.
Replay—**Kerry**, 1-4.		Kildare, 0-4.	Croke Park.	Oct. 17, 1926.
1927—**Kildare**, 0-5.		Kerry, 0-3.	Croke Park.	Sept. 25, 1927.
1928—**Kildare**, 2-6.		Cavan, 2-5.	Croke Park.	Sept. 30, 1928.
1929—**Kerry**, 1-8.		Kildare, 1-5.	Croke Park.	Sept. 22, 1929.
1930—**Kerry**, 3-4.		Monaghan, 0-2.	Croke Park.	Sept. 28, 1930.
1931—**Kerry**, 1-11.		Kildare, 0-8.	Croke Park.	Sept. 27, 1931.
1932—**Kerry**, 2-7.		Mayo, 2-4.	Croke Park.	Sept. 25, 1932.
1933—**Cavan**, 2-5.		Galway, 1-4.	Croke Park.	Sept. 24, 1933.

THE RAILWAY CUPS

WHERE LEINSTER LEADS

The following are the winners of the Railway Cups (Inter-Provincial Championships), the finals of which on St. Patrick's Day are now an annual feature of the G.A.A. programme:—

	Hurling	*Football*
1927	Leinster	Munster
1928	Munster	Leinster
1929	Munster	Leinster
1930	Munster	Leinster
1931	Munster	Munster
1932	Leinster	Leinster
1933	Leinster	Leinster

Connacht were in the 1927 and 1933 Football finals. Ulster were in the 1928 Football final. Other Football finals and all the Hurling finals have rested between Leinster and Munster.

ENORMOUS CROWDS

CROKE PARK RECORDS

Below are the figures of attendance and receipts at some of the recent All-Ireland Championship Finals at Croke Park:—

	Attendance.	*Receipts.*
HURLING		
1933—(Kilkenny v. Limerick)	45,176	£3,972
1932—(Kilkenny v. Clare)	34,372	3,000
1931—(Cork v. Kilkenny)	26,460	2,255
1931—(Do., 1st Replay)	33,124	2,774
1931—(Do., 2nd Replay)	31,935	2,756
FOOTBALL.		
1933—(Cavan v. Galway)	45,183	£4,037
1932—(Kerry v. Mayo)	25,816	2,248
1931—(Kerry v. Kildare)	42,350	3,854
1930—(Kerry v. Monaghan)	33,280	3,038
1929—(Kerry v. Kildare)	43,839	4,010
1928—(Kildare v. Cavan)	24,700	2,007
1927—(Kildare v. Kerry)	36,529	3,350
1926—(Kerry v. Kildare)	37,500	3,540
1926—(Do., Replay)	35,500	3,374

THE SIGERSON CUP

UNIVERSITY WINNERS.

The University Championships in football are decided annually in the competition for the Sigerson Perpetual Challenge Cup, presented by Dr. George Sigerson. The contests take place in turn in Dublin, Cork, and Galway, between the University Colleges of these three cities, and Queen's University, Belfast, which has lately entered the competition. The winners to date are:—

1911—Cork.
1912—Galway.
1913—Cork.
1914—Cork.
1915—Dublin.
1916—Dublin.
1917—Dublin.
1918—Dublin.
1919—Cork.
1920—Dublin.
1921—Galway.
1922—Cork.
1923—Dublin.
1924—Cork.
1925—Cork.
1926—Dublin.
1927—Cork.
1928—Dublin.
1929—Dublin.
1930—Dublin.
1931—Dublin.
1932—Dublin.
1933—Galway.

WHERE THE CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE GONE SINCE 1887

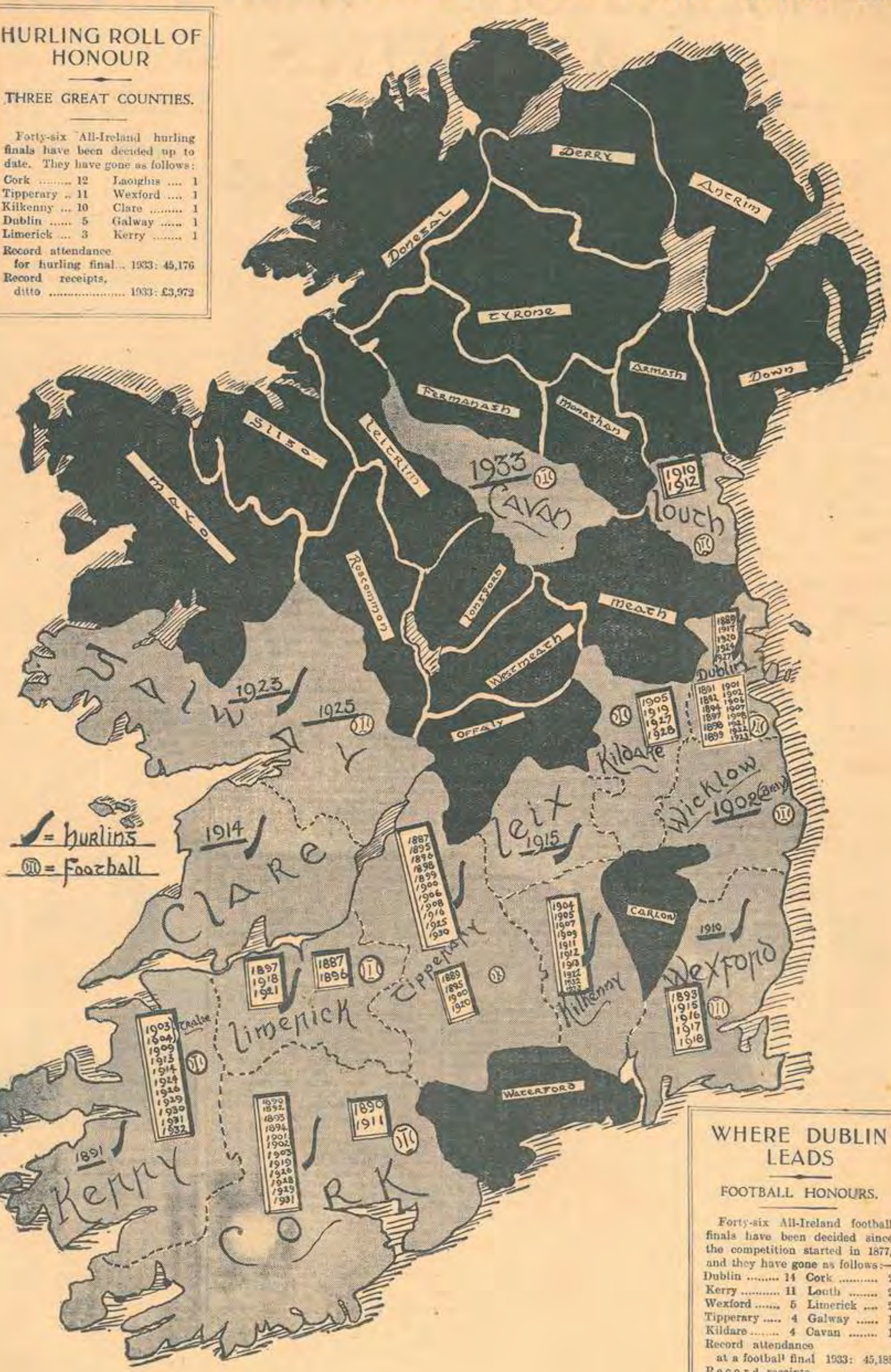
HURLING ROLL OF HONOUR

THREE GREAT COUNTIES.

Forty-six All-Ireland hurling finals have been decided up to date. They have gone as follows:

Cork	12	Laoighis	1
Tipperary	11	Wexford	1
Kilkenny	10	Clare	1
Dublin	5	Galway	1
Limerick	3	Kerry	1

Record attendance for hurling final... 1933: 45,176
Record receipts, ditto 1933: £3,972



WHERE DUBLIN LEADS

FOOTBALL HONOURS.

Forty-six All-Ireland football finals have been decided since the competition started in 1877, and they have gone as follows:—

Dublin	14	Cork	2
Kerry	11	Louth	2
Wexford	5	Limerick	2
Tipperary	4	Galway	1
Kildare	4	Cavan	1

Record attendance at a football final 1933: 45,188
Record receipts, ditto 1933: £4,037

ASSOCIATIONS' WORK FOR ATHLETICS

The Struggles of the Early Days

Irish athletes at Los Angeles in 1932 during the Olympic Games. From left: M. J. Murphy, R. M. N. Tisdall, Dr. P. O'Callaghan, Eamon Fitzgerald, and T. Maloney (trainer).

Irishmen Who Made World Records

THE high place of athletics in our ancient national life is manifest from our collected parchments as well as from time-honoured spoken tradition. The Tales of Finn, the Ossianic Cycle, the Annals of the Four Masters—all bear evidence of the Celts' admiration for physical prowess.

Proficiency in athletics was a necessary qualification for all high offices of war and peace in Ancient Ireland. Our athletic festivals were associated with religious celebrations. When the Chiefs with their retinue assembled to discuss policies and legislation, athletic displays held premier place in entertainment.

Organised athletics faded through the dark ages of oppression, yet isolated competition and local challenges at Pattern and Fair continued, preserving the prowess and skill of the Gaelic race. Such pastimes as jumping in all its forms, wrestling, weight-throwing in infinite variety, lived on stubbornly in rural Ireland.

A revival in English athletics, about the middle of the nineteenth century, had a reaction here, but all organised sports were controlled by the wealthy or leisured classes, who took their inspiration from England.

PETER O'CONNOR, Solicitor, Waterford, whose long jump of 24 ft. 11¾ ins. stood as a world record for twenty-five years.

Labourers, tradesmen, artisans, policemen, and soldiers were excluded from the Amateur Athletic Association of the period. Athletics were the privileges of the elite.

Such was the position when Michael Cusack launched his Gaelic athletic campaign. At Cusack's momentous meeting in Hayes's Hotel, Thurles, the pioneers were as deeply concerned with such sports as jumping and weight-throwing as they were with hurling and football. The sports of the peasantry were to be revived; the age-old athletic devotion of the race was to see a new birth; athletic competition was the right of the working man as well as the "Peer of the Realm."

The Gaelic Athletic Association was established. Its arrival brought immediate "fluttering of dovecots." By what right did this new, unknown body dare set foot on a privileged domain? So asked the associates of the Amateur Athletic Association of England. The majority of the Irish sporting Press of the time looked askance at the new movement.

One Irish newspaper, alone, welcomed the G.A.A. The Irish Cycling Association condemned the challenging arrival as savouring of politics. The I.A.A.A. was directly opposed to Sunday competition.

FIRST G.A.A. SPORTS.

So went on the Press debate, whilst the stirring life throughout the land quickened. The first athletic meeting, bearing allegiance to the G.A.A., was held at Toames, Co. Cork, on November 11, 1884; Tulla, Co. Clare, had a meeting in January, 1885. With the coming of April and May "the heather was blazing."

Athletes of mighty prowess appeared from all corners of the land. One hundred and fifty athletic metings were held under G.A.A. auspices in 1885, and the grand challenge was sent out on June 17 when a monster G.A.A. meeting was fixed for Tralee on the same date that the Amateur Association, affiliated to the English parent body, had a fixture arranged for the Tralee cricket ground.

Ten thousand spectators crowded the G.A.A. athletic meeting, and the rival fixture was deserted. There and then began the Gaelic influence on Irish athletics which was to send scores of world's champions to many fields within a decade and set the Irish name foremost in the world of sport.

The distinguished patronage of Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, of Michael Davitt, and C. S. Parnell—National leaders of the period—helped to swell the tide of patriotism behind the Gaelic Athletic movement. Proficiency in weights and jumps had been handed down from generation to generation. Admiration for athletic ability amounted almost to veneration with the Irish peasantry.

THE DAVINS.

Had not Maurice Davin, the new President of the G.A.A., and his brothers, Pat and Tom, beaten all the best men in England, Scotland, and Wales? There were men almost as good hidden in the hillsides and glens. Here was their opportunity and they flocked in unprecedented numbers to the athletic meetings under the G.A.A.

Dr. Croke presented a memorial cup to the first athletic championships. These were held at Tramore in October, 1885, and J. S. Mitchell, of Emly, a powerful young weight-thrower, won the Croke trophy.

Through the year 1886, and for fifteen years following, Irish athletics flourished exceedingly. Side by side with the hurling and football enthusiasm there was an overwhelming desire to see the "big men in action." Sports meetings became a popular feature in every corner of the country. There was a new life and brightness over the face of the land. Of course, as in all new movements, certain irregularities appeared and rival bitterness on more than one occasion threatened the very life of the movement. Yet it had the essence of success and lived on tenaciously.

In 1886 all money prizes were abolished in the G.A.A. and, following representations made by Archbishop Croke and Michael Davitt, a better spirit reigned between the G.A.A. and I.A.A.A. Each body recognised the other's suspensions; a joint records board was established, and, though both Associations worked independently in the promotion of meetings, their mutual understanding worked well in international contests and overseas competitions.

A whole host of supermen were regularly competing under G.A.A. auspices—J. S. Mitchell, Dr. J. C. Daly, F. B. Dineen, Timothy O'Mahony, Phibbs brothers, O'Regan, Real, J. P. O'Sullivan, Shanahan, D. D. Bolger, M. A. Sweeney, Tim O'Connor, Denis Power, Connery brothers, McCarthy, Looney, Keoghan, Barry, Fraher, Mooney, etc.

THE AMERICAN INVASION.

Their performances rivalled the world's best, and, as a racial gesture, the great "Gaelic Invasion" of U.S.A. was planned in 1888.

Most of the athletes named above made the journey to America. They had an immense reception, and created a profound impression in the principal American cities. At Brooklyn, 10,000 assembled. Against an American selection Pat Davin won hurdles, Mooney 220, O'Mahony 440, Con Phibbs the mile, and Mitchell the weights.

Unfortunately, a Presidential election, wet weather, an American athletic dispute, and bad publicity made the tour expensive, and Michael Davitt had to come to the rescue; but Ireland's place on the athletic map was secure. The Gael was resurgent (see Special Article dealing with the "American Invasion").

The years that followed were vintage years in Irish athletics. Pat Davin, of Carrick-on-Suir, won the first all-round championship, beating the Manhattan and New York Club cracks, and Tommy Conneff, of Clane, Co. Kildare, was smashing all records from three-quarters of a mile to five miles.

Following Clare's fine high jumper, P. J. Kelly, came a young school teacher from Tipperary—J. M. Ryan—to set up new world's figures for the high jump at 6ft. 4¼ins., only to be eclipsed a few years later by the wonderful group of Charleville athletes—the Leahy brothers.

Dr. Tom Donovan, of Blarney, and J. P. O'Sullivan, of Killorglin, won successive all-round championships, and Irishmen from Mitchell to Real built up new figures with the weights.

In the English Championships of 1892 five titles were won by the Gaels and in the same year appeared the wonder-man of Carrick-on-Suir, one Thomas F. Kiely, of Ballyneale, a pupil of the famous Davin School of Athletes.

THE WONDERFUL KIELY.

Kiely, with great natural gifts and little specialised training, opened up the greatest series of athletic successes that this or any other country knew. Six and seven winning events a day were his usual programme. He could sprint, jump, toss weights, and walk with the specialists. He took seven titles in the 1892 Championships, set up new figures for several weights, and was a superb hurdler.

For a dozen years he was away on his own as an all-round man and he was, perhaps, on the down grade, when he went to the St. Louis Exhibition in 1904 to beat the American champions, including Gunn and Elly Clarke with a total of 6,086 points.

Kiely got brilliant receptions at New York, Boston, and had a public welcome on his return to Ireland. That he went back to win the All-Round Athletic Championship of the World at Madison Square Gardens, New York, in 1906, set the seal on his fame as our wonder athlete.

But the Gaelic Association produced a galaxy of stars about that time little behind Kiely. Murty O'Brien and the Leahys were beating the world's best in the high jump; Tom Wood, of Enniskean, was a versatile man of great talent; the Ryans of Cashel were athletic giants.

J. S. MITCHELL, Emly, who won the Croke Trophy in 1885.

One Denis Horgan, a farmer's son, of Duhallow, became an adept shot-putter and opened up a list of thirteen championships in England before setting up a world's record in U.S.A.; John Mangan, of Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford, smashed heavyweight records and the Kilmallock hercules, John Flanagan, perfecting hammer technique, took the world's record from 156 to 188 feet in an astonishing series of lengthening distances.

PETER O'CONNOR'S RECORDS.

A powerful Midlander, W. J. M. Newburn, sprinter, weightsman, and jumper, smashed C. B. Fry's broad

jump record by a foot, and his fine efforts were shadowed a year later by the tall deerlike man of Waterford—Peter O'Connor. Ten times in the year 1901 O'Connor beat 24½ feet; his record jump, 24 feet 11¾ inches, held on world records books for 25 years.

Martin Sheridan, a beautifully built Mayo man, resident in New York, was winning Olympic title before succeeding Kiely as world's all-round champion. Con Walsh, Denis Carey, Mat McGrath, and P. J. Ryan, set up new weight figures, and Ryan's hammer throw, 189 feet 6½ inches is the world's best to-day.

Peter O'Connor and Con Leahy distinguished themselves in the Olympic Games at Athens, Flanagan, Sheridan, McGrath, McDonald, and the Ahearnes won laurel wreaths at Olympic celebrations, and scores of distinguished athletes appeared on home tracks.

J. J. Bresnihan, a magnificent all-round athlete, and W. F. Bennett were little behind Kiely in talent; Fahy, Chandler, Courtney, Wall, Keoghan, and Creedin were brilliant at standing events. Percy Kirwan and J. J. Burke swept the decks at the Vatican Jubilee celebrations in Rome. Crowe, Culhane, Hynes, Daly, and Finnegan followed on the heels of George B. Tincler—one of the world's best distance men.

Bob Hales, J. J. Ryan, and George Magan continued the lustrous grouping. Britton, O'Grady, Bermingham, Shanahan, etc., helped, and Irish athletics held their high place.

The Gaelic influence in Irish and World athletics had its peak period in the decade from 1895 to 1905. Other countries, better equipped in finance and training facilities, came into the field. Specialisation became the order of the day; record after record passed to the Finns, Swedes, and Americans. Succeeding Olympiads found Irish names less in evidence.

THE NEW ASSOCIATION.

Once more the cleavage between the G.A.A. and I.A.A.A. found athletics riven. Interest faded; team games absorbed budding athletes, and the sport was at a low ebb when the National Athletic and Cycling Association was established in 1922.

Under the presidency of Mr. J. J. Keane, who came direct from the G.A.A., much lost ground was recovered after several lean years. Recent Olympic successes of Dr. O'Callaghan and Tisdall point to a definite revival.

The G.A.A. may or may not decide to take a more direct hand in the development of Irish athletics in future years; but it had controlled them during a glamorous period; it had brought out the latent talent of the race to astonish international athletic magnates; it established here a racial pride that shall not quickly pass.

The Brothers Kiely

T. F. KIELY, Ireland's most brilliant all-round athlete.

LARRY KIELY, also a well-known athlete, and a brother of Tom Kiely.

Two Great Athletes

PAT DAVIN, brother of the first President of the G.A.A., winner of the first All-Round Athletic Championship of the World.

TIM LEAHY, Charleville, clearing 6ft. 3ins. at Stoke-on-Trent on August 4, 1914.

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MICHAEL DEERING,
Limerick and Cork—1898-1901.

P. D. BREEN,
Wexford—1924-'26.

SEAN RYAN,
Tipperary and Dublin—1928-'32.

W. R. CLIFFORD,
Limerick—1926-'28.

Michael Cusack Tells the Story of his Life.

Carron, [illegible] Day 1896

My dear John Costello:

I was born in the parish of Carron Burren, Co Clare, on, or about the 41th anniversary of the murder of ~~Robert Emmet~~ call it the 20th of September 1847.

My mother died on Friday the 18th of May 18[illegible]. Her remains were laid in the Flanning plot under the passing shadow of the round tower of Drumcliffe

[PAGE ONE]

on the 13th of Nov. 1864, I left home to become a Pupil ~~Te~~ Teacher in the Enn[illegible] Corthy Model School. Just one year later I took the job substitute teacher in my native parish while the permanent Teacher was on Training in Dublin. This brought me down to the middle of 1866.

The second half of the

[PAGE TWO]

year 1866 found me on Training as a Schoolmaster in Dublin.

Decr. 31, 1866 found me Teacher of the Lough Cutra National School. My Class was First of Second — the highest possibly attainable at the time for a man or boy of my age and experience.

~~On~~ On the 13th of Oct. 1871 I left Lough Cutra, and three days later appeared in St.

[PAGE THREE]

Colman's College, Fermoy. I left Fermoy in the summer of 1874. After one month with my brother in [illegible] of Morganshire I turned up at the French College Blackrock. In Jan. 1875 I went to St John's College Kilkenny. Three months later I turned up in Dublin got married went to teach at Clongowes Wood College. Came back to Dublin and stayed there. The subsequent proceedings are well known.

It is briefly the story of my life. My brother [illegible] an equally [illegible] done.

Michael Cusack

[PAGE FOUR]

WHAT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES HAVE DONE

THE NEED FOR ORGANISATION

BY P. J. O'KEEFFE GEN. SEC., G.A.A.

"In conclusion, I earnestly hope . . . that the masters and pupils of our Irish colleges will not henceforth exclude from their athletic programmes such manly exercises as I have just referred to and commemorated."

THESE are the last words in the memorable letter addressed by the late Most Rev. Dr. T. W. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, to Michael Cusack when accepting the position of first Patron of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

That considered endorsement has been admirably described as the National Charter of the G.A.A., and a famous Irish publicist declared that it should be read, like orders of the day, at every Gaelic athletic assembly.

If it were only for the sake of the aspiration quoted above, it should certainly be made familiar to every teacher and pupil in Irish schools and colleges, so that they might make their election between the recreative policy of Dr. Croke and that which aims at destroying his ideal of young Irish manhood.

The principles embodied in that pronouncement remain immutable, and the hope it expressed has yet to be realised.

Though we see from that communication that the importance of young Ireland in its seminaries was present to the minds of the founders of the G.A.A. fifty years ago, the early organisers took no steps to bring either schools or colleges into the fold of national pastimes.

There were, doubtless, colleges in the South where hurling was practised as a matter of custom, and there were probably some others which took it up at the behest of the Archbishop; but the Council of the G.A.A. was too critically engaged with other affairs to devote attention to the athletic education of the generations that were to follow.

HURLING IN T.C.D.

It will be a surprising fact to many that hurling was recognised as a distinctive Irish game in academic spheres long before the establishment of the G.A.A., and in surroundings which the motives that gave birth to the G.A.A. could never have influenced—within the exclusive pale of what was an alien ascendancy, Trinity College and the Grammar Schools.

The existence of hurling in Trinity College probably went back for centuries, and its position in the "70's" of the past century is not open to question. "The rules of hurling as played in Trinity College" received just as much prominence in Lawrence's Sports Handbooks of that period as did cricket or Rugby codes. If hurling rules were published earlier elsewhere they would be most interesting just now.

At the same time, Kingstown Grammar School pursued the pastime with ardour, and in a published address on School Sports by a past pupil who, I think, later became Mr. Justice Samuel, it was boasted that the school had the best hurling team in Leinster; so that, obviously, there were others on the same footing.

All this was before the advent of the G.A.A., and it would seem that, as soon as native games threatened to become popular, they were discarded on privileged arenas.

Be that as it may—and it matters not now—the rise of the National Association brought about no immediate increase to the popularity of hurling or native football on college playing fields, nor was any effort made to organise schoolboys elsewhere. No inducements in the way of suitable competitions were held out and, for a long time, Dr. Croke's admonition fell on deaf ears. Gaelic games lost invaluable ground and opportunities in the first 20 years of the Association.

The extent of the reaction in Irish colleges to the establishment of an Association for the promotion of games with which most of the masters and pupils must have been familiar by experience or tradition cannot now be estimated; but the actual response was negligible for all practical purposes.

There is only one instance on record of open adhesion to the movement. This was the Carmelite College, Terenure, where professors and students met and resolved:—"That believing it to be one of the functions of educational establishments to provide for the physical, no less than the moral and intellectual training of the rising generation of Irishmen in accordance with the instincts and traditions of their ancient race, we hereby form ourselves into a branch of the Gaelic Athletic Association."

That declaration contained the pith of Gaelic policy respecting school games. To what extent it was carried out we cannot say. Perhaps, enthusiasm flagged in the isolation they must have experienced.

There is little use in dwelling now on years when the G.A.A. might have acquired invaluable strength and influence and failed to do so. It would be less consoling to us to learn that such strength had been won and lost than to know that it has since been gained, and is steadily being extended and consolidated in the sphere of Dr. Croke's solicitude.

SCHOOLBOYS' ENTHUSIASM.

Better still, the mass of the pupils of our day schools—the sons of the virile nation—is being rapidly enrolled under the banner unfurled by the great Archbishop of Cashel under happier conditions than existed in his day. Where he hoped for an academic rivulet, we now command a scholastic Shannon, with all the potential power of that historic river.

There are still reaches to be controlled. Organisation is wanting in many places. The enthusiasm of young Ireland is outstripping the capacity of its leaders; but it will not be for lack of encouragement, guidance and acilities.

It was not until about thirty years ago that the promotion of schools' and colleges' games was seriously undertaken by any Gaelic Athletic authority. These earlier efforts were disjointed, fitful, and rewarded with varying success. To Cork and Dublin may fairly be attributed pioneer work, and individually to Mr. Tom Dooley and Mr. Matt O'Riordan in the Southern and the late Mr. Tom Hensey in the Nationaal Capital the major credit for practical initiative is due.

These men attracted the support of a few more far-seeing Gaels. Then attention was aroused in other cities and towns, and slowly a movement that had been spontaneous and local became dynamic and expansive. It was no forced development of G.A.A. activities. Young Ireland had waited through generations for the call, and has proved eager to respond wherever the opportunity was afforded.

During more recent years the schools' competitions in Cork and Dublin have grown on an organised basis to unexpected proportions, and have now counterparts in many areas. The movement has spread almost to the extreme North, and nowhere in Ireland has it found more ardent young enthusiasts than in Belfast.

There is as yet no common link or programme for the young Gaels of our Primary Schools. With the noteworthy exception of the Dublin v. Belfast matches there has been no attempt made to advance the boys' games by inter-city or county rivalry. I know there have been occasional contests of such a character; but these were only isolated or festival fixtures.

A REMEDY REQUIRED.

This is a defect in Gaelic Athletic organisation that must be remedied for the sake of the Association and of the boys. It is essential to the standard of the games that all young players should acquire the fullest artistry they can evoke, and this can only be done by the widest possible intercourse on the field.

If boys' matches were tacked on to

A Meeting of the Colleges' Council

Some of the delegates at the G.A.A. Central Colleges Council Annual General Convention, held on December 10, 1933, in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin. From left: An Br. T. S. O Muireadhaigh, An Br. Peadar, A. O Muimhneachain, P. O Caoimh (Runaidhe Onor.), An t-Athair O Seisneain (Uachtaran), An t-Ath. P. Mac Gaghrain, O.M.I.; An Br. O Dochartaigh, An t-Ath. L. Mac Ghaill, An t-Ath. M. O Ceatharnaigh, An Br. P. C. de Burca.

Caffrey's College

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"THE FIRST PLACE COLLEGE"

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1st Place Dublin Corpn. (Female), 1933
1st Place Government Shorthand Typists. 1932.
1st Place Guinness No. 2 Clerks, 1931.
1st Place Customs and Excise, 1930.
1st Place Jun. Ex., 1930.
1st Place Customs and Excise, 1929.
1st Place Writing Assistants (April), 1929.
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COLÁISTE CUIMNEACÁIN AN PIARSAIG

I SCEANT LÁN NA GAEDEALTAĆTA

CUNRAÍ AN FEAD IÚIL I LUSNAM, 1934

CAINNTEÓIRÍ DUTCAIR MAN MÚINTEÓIRÍ

DURANNA SAC MAIDIN IR THAĆNÓNA

Sac eolas ó'n:—
Runaide,
Rop Mac, Co. na Gaillimhe.

WHAT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES HAVE DONE

(Continued from Previous Page.)

regular inter-county programmes, the expense would not be missed, and the cos. of organisation would be negligible. Hurling needs special attention in this respect. It is such a fine art that it can easily deteriorate, and when the caman game becomes stolid and mechanical it loses all its attractiveness and much of its intrinsic merits as an exhilarating, distinctive pastime. The G.A.A. must look after this department, because its adult resources are not inexhaustible.

The story of the Gaelic games in the colleges and secondary schools is one of gratifying progress during recent years. Whether this is to be contributed to the principals or the pupils we need not stay to inquire. Were educational policies in Ireland both normal and national Hurling would be the standard game in every establishment professing to mould the plastic character of future Irish citizens. Even as it is, the national pastime has now a got a firm grip, and the provincial championships in Leinster and Munster produce splendid contests and thrilling All-Ireland finals. Football also holds its place in er; is somewhat less popular than Hurling in Munster, and is the game pursued on a championship basis in Connacht and Ulster.

Colleges competitions had a parlous start in Munster and Leinster. Some institutions that participated early dropped out for various reasons, and little discernible headway was made for a time. The Dr. Harty Hurling Cup in Munster is always keenly contested, and the style and stature of the players dispel any fears of the decay of Hurling in collegiate ranks

The Munster Council Cup is serving a like purpose for Football, but less successfully so far. But it must ultimately contribute to the revival of the game in the province, for many past students find places on county teams.

Leinster, admitting its superior resources, has surpassed the other provinces in extent of organisation and competitions. At the present moment it is bringing to a close a series of five Hurling Football championships with an entry of thirty teams and a programme of one hundred matches. At least half the counties are represented, Dublin being naturally most prominent. The first forward move in Leinster was made with Mr Eamonn Fleming as Hon. Sec. of the Provincial Council, and that impetus has gained tida. strength under the direction of Mr. Martin O'Neill.

The Connacht Football Championship is rather limited as yet; but the quality of its teams is a recompense for lack of numbers. The resources and facilities of the Western Province are restricted, but headway is reported each year, and college players there have worn county colours and adorned them with tokens of All-Ireland prowes.

The Cardinal MacRory Football Cup has maintained a splendid League competition in Ulster during the past ten years. Colleges from five counties compete, and t standard of play has won for Uladh two All-Ireland championships. Here again county selections have drawn brilliant young players from college teams.

It is to be hoped that hurling will soon be established on a competitive basis in Connacht and Ulster.

Since the University Colleges took up hurling and football seriously a quarter of a century ago their teams have been in the front rank of senior players. An All-Ireland final without a few university players is now unusual. The annual competition for the football cup presented by the late Dr Sigerson in 1911, and for the hurling cup presented by Very Rev. Dr. Edwin Fitzgibbon in 1912, provide hurling and football of All-Ireland standard, games in which such great players as Dr. John Ryan, Dr. Daly, Frank Burke, and many others first made their names.

This is a resume, with such comments as were felt justified of the history and standing of native games in the environment of intellectual training. Schools and colleges now dominate organised sport the world over. It is vital to the Gaelic cause that our distinctive pastimes should hold sway in schools' and colleges' games here.

UNPLAYED FINALS

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In 1888 both finals were unplayed, the championships being abandoned owing to the visit of the Gaelic teams to America

In 1910 Kerry gave Louth a walk-over in the football, refusing to travel because the railway did not give all the travelling facilities that Kerry had demanded.

1911 the All-Ireland hurling final fixed for Cork was postponed because the ground was flooded. The match was refixed for Thurles, but Limerick refused to play elsewhere than in Cork and Kilkenny got a walk-over.

In the 1925 football semi-final Kerry beat Cavan, but both teams were disqualified on the hearing of objections andcounter objections. Wexford was beaten by Mayo in the other semi-final, but as Mayo only represented Connacht pending the completion of the Connacht championship, which Galway ultimately won, Galway were accordingly declared All-Irish champions.

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ARCHBISHOP HARTY'S GOOD WISHES

The Palace,
Thurles.
March 13, 1934.

To the Editor "Irish Independent."

THE publication by the "Irish Independent" of a Souvenir of the Golden Jubilee of the G.A.A. is a happy event. The G.A.A. deserves the support of every Irishman who loves his native land. Founded fifty years ago in Thurles by Maurice Davin and Michael Cusack, the Association has transformed the outlook of Irishmen towards our Gaelic games.

Under the inspiration of its first patron, Dr. Croke, it has gradually spread from Parish to Parish, from County to County, and from Province to Province, so that the games of the Gael at the present day are honoured in every part of Ireland.

In addition to fostering Irish games the Association has helped to bring discipline and self-control into the everyday life of the nation. Recognising no boundaries within the four seas of Ireland and holding aloof from mere party politics, it is a source of union between all Irishmen. At all times it has done its part in promoting Irish ideals and in inspiring a deeper love of Ireland and of its glorious traditions.

In the past the G.A.A. has had a healthy influence on Irish life, and we expect that in the future it will continue its beneficent activity.

+ J. M. Harty
Thurles.

GREETINGS FROM G.A.A. PRESIDENT

Whitechurch,
Co. Corcaighe.
March 8, 1934.

To the Editor "Irish Independent."

bEADH AGUS FLÁINTE DÍOM GO LÉIR, A ŠAEDHEALA, AR FUAID NA H-ÉIREANN UILE AGUS Ó BHRAU I gCÉIN ÉAR FAIRRGE; AGUS AR TEACHT D'ÁR NDÚTHAIGE ÓRÚA I MBLIAIN Ó., ŠUIDHIM DIA NA ŠLÓIRE GO DTUGAIDH SÉ CABHAIR, COMHAIRLE, AGUS MISNEACH DÚINN I gCÚRSAIBH, FÁD-CHUAIRT NÁISIÚNTACHTA NA TÍRE DO CUR CHUN CINN NIOR BHFIOŠMHAIRE FÓR, AGUS ORDHEACHT I MEASC NA MARÐ DO CÓMHLÁNUGHADH ŠAN FÚD NÁ FOCAL DE DO ŠÉILLEADH UAINN.

With all my heart I send this message of sincere greeting to my fellow-Gaels at home and beyond the seas, on the auspicious coming of this Golden Jubilee year of the Gaelic Athletic Association, founded fifty years ago under the illustrious patronage of Archbishop Croke, with whose immortal fame the esteemed names and venerated memories of Michael Cusack and Maurice Davin are inseparably linked in attachment and reverence.

Our tortured motherland lay prone on the graves of oft-vanished hopes when the shrill clarion call of these three patriots went forth to raise aloft once more the banner of the ancient games and distinctive culture of this historic nation; and to-day we exult in the splendid vision of an awakened and rejuvenated manhood brightening the life of the countryside, where every hamlet is astir, and every glen resounds with the lively exhilaration of the old sports and traditions which past generations cherished.

United in a noble cause, we ask of God for strength and fortitude and perseverance, until our ideal of an Ireland "not free merely, but Gaelic as well; not Gaelic merely, but free as well" is finally accomplished.

Seán Mac Cáipisín
Uachtarán, G.A.A.

TO
COMMEMORATE
A GREAT
AND HISTORIC
OCCASION

THE
PLAQUE ERECTED
IN THURLES TO
SIGNALISE THE
GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF THE G.A.A.

EXILED GAELS CLING TO THEIR GAMES

IN AMERICA AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Representation of Queen Tailte

WHAT AONACH TAILTEANN CAN ACCOMPLISH

At Aonach Tailteann Parade, 1928

OF all those who struck distinctive notes at the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association, the late Michael Davitt alone would appear to have envisaged the extension of its operations and influence beyond the limits of this country.

In his letter approving of the aims of the Association he suggested the organisation of a "grand National Festival" with prizes for artistic as well as athletic performances "open to the Celtic race throughout the world." In pursuance of this conception a few years later he gave material aid to the project, which materialised in the "invasion" of the United States by Irish athletic and hurling teams in 1888.

It is clear, however, that athletic conquest rather than the propagation of the team games was the impelling purpose of that famous expedition, and the hurlers had to be content with giving exhibition displays. Experience gained on that trip was not encouraging and, in any event, the Council at home had enough work in hands to control and consolidate the organisation that had sprung up around it. Yet, under happier conditions on the other side, the "Gaelic invasion" of 1888 might have achieved a memorable and abiding success.

If by a miraculous inversion of fifty years the present administration, unity, resources, and enterprise of the G.A.A. had existed a year or two after the movement was launched in Thurles, there is little reason to doubt that the G.A.A. would have become a world-wide association. The reason for this would not have given much cause for gratification. It would have been due to the immensity of our losses by emigration to almost every part of the English-speaking world.

This annual exodus had carried away young men more deeply imbued with national ideals and racial traditions than in later years, and they were then thrown more completely into their own racial communities and better able to serve their own distinctive customs.

It is certain that, had the opportunity been presented to them, they would have flocked to the standard of the old home games as enthusiastically as they mustered for a St. Patrick's Day parade anywhere from Broadway to Brisbane.

It was not until some years after Michael Davitt had written that a branch of the G.A.A. was formed anywhere abroad, and forty years had to elapse before his idea of a great race carnival was realised by the revival of the Tailteann Games in 1924. The pity was that these years had been so many.

There are good grounds for the belief, though evidence to sustain it is inaccessible, that, even before the G.A.A. was started here, Irish exiles, wherever they were numerous enough, carried on the sports and pastimes they had been familiar with at home, and that the sons of earlier exiles still participated. In no other way can we explain the existence of hurling competitions

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Yours truly T. McM.

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in Australia and Argentina for years and years back.

Irish communities in these vast countries never had close touch with the organisation at home, and the normal infiltration of fresh blood has never been sufficient to do more than give a slight impetus to the pastimes. The same spontaneous devotion manifested itself as soon as Irish arrivals grew numerous enough on the Rand; for it is many years now since our national pastime was first seen in the erstwhile Boer Republics and British Colonies in South Africa.

Nor, if we think and analyse the feelings that would naturally master us in like circumstances, need we wonder at the yearning exiles must feel to create,

LONDON

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MR. SAMUEL SMITH.

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MR. M. O'SULLIVAN,
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even for an hour, the illusion of home scenes and pleasures, whether it be on the Veldt, in the Bush, or under the Southern Cross. Have we not read how the Irish in London pursued the old sports they were familiar with at home for centuries to the alarm and disgust of the staid citizens of the English capital? Have we not the authority of Dwyer Joyce as to the devotion of the Irish Brigade on the Continent to "the game played in Erin go Bragh," and can we not find confirmation of this by that ultra-prosaic writer, Blake-Forster ("The Irish Chieftains.")

But a fig for proofs—poetic or historical. Every instinct confirms the tradition that the Gael and his games are by nature inseparable.

To come, therefore, to more definite affairs and times, we find that many troubled years for the G.A.A. passed before overseas branches were formed, and contact established. Even at present these branches are confined to the United States and Great Britain, with a few hurling teams in South Africa, which delighted us a few years ago by sending their representatives to compete in the Tailteann Games. The hurling matches which take place in Australia (where inter-State contests are held) and around Buenos Aires are organised by independent associations.

THE "GAELIC INVASION."

There was no branch of the G.A.A. to receive the Gaelic teams that arrived in the United States in 1888, and it was not till three years later, 1891, that the "G.A.A. of America" was formed in New York. It had a chequered existence, and was dormant for long periods. The teams of that time, as at present, were mainly attached to the County Associations, and their activities were often subordinated to the policies and rivalries of those bodies.

Still the nucleus of an Association continued to exist, and the constant influx from Ireland provided an abundance of players. However, the Associa-

THE AMERICAN TAILTEANN TEAM

The American team which played Ireland at the Tailteann Games, 1928.

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tion did not make much headway on its own basis, and its persistence was largely due to the possession of a famous headquarters in Celtic Park, where many men of Irish origin made history in the athletic arena. The acquisition of this park was the result of the enterprise of an early secretary of the G.A.A. at home—Mr. W. F. Prendergast—and when it passed out of Gaelic control a few years ago, the Association in New York suffered a severe set-back.

However, the games never lost their attraction, and about ten years ago a re-organisation was effected, and public support rallied. Clubs sprang up or were revived in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Pittsburg, Buffalo and other cities, and the Eastern Council was constituted to supervise operations. The appearance of United States teams at the Tailteann Games gave the old pastimes a new prestige, and an international status which the visits of Kerry, Tipperary, and Mayo selections enhanced and stabilised.

The competitions now carried out by the greater New York Governing Body embrace both junior and senior hurling and football championships, and at the new Gaelic ground—Inisfail Park—there are often as many as four matches listed for a Sunday afternoon in the season. In fact, the New York Council is seriously handicapped by want of grounds, no easy problem to solve in an area of crowded skyscrapers.

There are strong Gaelic clubs in Chicago and San Francisco, which Kerry and Tipperary visited in the course of their tours. They are, however, compelled by isolation to create their own competition—a situation which must militate against their potential strength and activities.

The New York clubs, and others elsewhere, are now confronted with a fresh and unique difficulty—a growing lack of new players owing to the practical stoppage of emigration from Ireland. This threatens the existence of several "county" teams as old players drop out, and discloses the fact that Gaelic pastimes can never have attracted American-born manhood, even of Irish descent, in any great numbers.

To endeavour to repair this great loss Gaelic football teams have been organised in many schools, and a competition inaugurated for them. From this generation it is hoped to recruit the adult ranks in coming years. Whatever the extent of its success may be, this is assuredly the only way by which native Americans can be introduced to the merits and thrills of Irish pastimes.

IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The history of modern hurling and Gaelic football in Britain would deserve a few chapters for itself, so varied have been the fortunes of the games across the Channel from Glasgow to Southampton and from Liverpool and Cardiff to London. The English metropolis was first and strongest in the movement, and, with a few ups and downs, has remained pre-eminent to the present. Next to it came and stands Lancashire—Liverpool and Manchester to be pre-

BRITAIN

Chairman:
MR. J. COLLINS.

Secretary:
MR. P. COSTELLOE,
41 Miranda Road, Highgate,
London.

cise—which has many times vied with London for precedence.

The hurling game has had only a fitful existence in South Wales, Southampton, and Sheffield, and died out after a few years on the Clyde, where it might have been expected to derive a stimulus from the kindred Scottish game of Shinty (Camanacht). Last year, however, a commendable and promising scheme was put into operation to foster both pastimes by material emulation and competitive intercourse.

To the Gaels of London belongs a distinction that no others abroad can boast—they provided a team to win an All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship. This was in August, 1903, when the Emmets' London pick defeated the Redmonds Cork selection in the final for the 1901 title. Around those years there was a host of hurling talent along the Thames-side; nearly all coming from Munster, with Cork taking a leading place on the field and in the clubs. London football at this period was also highly efficient; but the team was never able to equal the hurlers' success.

Local conditions changed, and the strength of the London teams declined, with the result that the ambitions of Gaels in Britain are now confined to the Junior championships which they contest each year. London, like New York, receives fewer and fewer young Irishmen, and these are of different type to the old.

South Wales and Lancashire owed most of their Gaelic elements to Wexford and the other Eastern counties, though, of course, plenty of those from other parts proved true to home ideals there. Lancashire has alone maintained rivalry with London in both hurling and football and represented the cross-Channel Gaelic province here in 1931, and hopes to do so again.

Efforts to reorganise Gaelic clubs outside these great centres have met with no permanent success in recent years, and the future cannot be said to hold out any hopes under prospective conditions. But the unexpected can never be ruled out, and Gaelic revivals come in cycles. But where a plant cannot root, it will not flourish, and there are some soils too arid and too alien for Gaelic culture.

Yet even from this brief review of the fortunes of Irish pastimes abroad it can be seen that they have always had the vitality to reproduce themselves wherever a community of heart-sound Irishmen was found. But the task of welding these far-scattered groups into a uniform organisation seems beset with insuperable difficulties, though it has never been seriously undertaken. Now, are these difficulties hard to understand when we remember all the diverse conditions, conflicting interests, and distracting influences that affect the circumstances and associations of the "sea-divided Gael" from time to time? Still, they all cherish a devotion to every distinctive feature of the old land, no matter where their lot may be cast, and their hearts will leap in any clime at the sight and sound of the caman.

The vision of Michael Davitt of a representative exposition of distinctive intellectual and physical endowments in which all Celtic peoples might take part has materialised, so far as the Irish race is concerned, in the modern Aonach Tailteann. Further, I doubt, it can never go, for the Celtic peoples have been drifting apart and losing their identities for a century and more.

Cornwall has disappeared as a racial entity. Man is at the point of losing its last distinctive possession—its language. Brittany is fighting a losing battle for its historic existence. Wales alone maintains its intellectual and cultural frontiers and nothing more.

None of these, save only Cornwall,

NEW YORK

Chairman:
MR. F. McARDLE.

Secretary:
MR. J. O'DONNELL,
c/o Dixie Hotel, 42nd Street,
N.Y.C.

had, so far as I have ever learned, a popular pastime that linked them with the Gaels of Ireland. The Celtic tradition, so far as the one historic surviving game we know is concerned, abides with the Celts of Scotia Major and Scotia Minor—Eire agus Alba.

A CALL TO RALLY FORCES.

But Ireland has a far-flung dominion in her national pastime, and the allied game of football, which has been fashioned and developed by the athletic instincts of her sons, and every interest and impulse urge us to secure and strengthen the link that can bind her offspring so congenially.

It should be feasible to rouse our scattered kindred in America, Africa, and Australia well in advance of the second next Tailteann Games to prepare for a reunion on a really representative scale with the race at home and nearer home, and include, if you will, all other allied peoples who have anything to contribute to the glory of Celtic arts and achievements.

It is an ambitious proposal—a chimera if you like—and such it will remain if we halt on our own path and lack the courage or grudge the labour. Let us invoke the spirit and inspire the genius of our race ere it is too late!

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Families of Great Players

The GRACES of Tullarcan

PIERCE DICK JACK

WINNERS OF DUAL HONOURS

Only five players ever succeeded in winning dual honours—All-Ireland medals in Senior Hurling and Senior Football.

There are two from Wexford, and one from Kilkenny, Dublin, and Cork.

See Special Article on Page Seven.

The LANDERS of Tralee

TIM JOHN JOE BILL

FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

IT would be interesting to find out which of the great Gaelic families has the largest number of All-Ireland medals.

Probably the record is with the Doyles of Mooncoin. Between 1904 and 1913 the three brothers, Mick, Dick, and Eddie, won no fewer than 16 All-Ireland hurling medals with Kilkenny.

Dick won six medals—in 1904, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, and 1913.

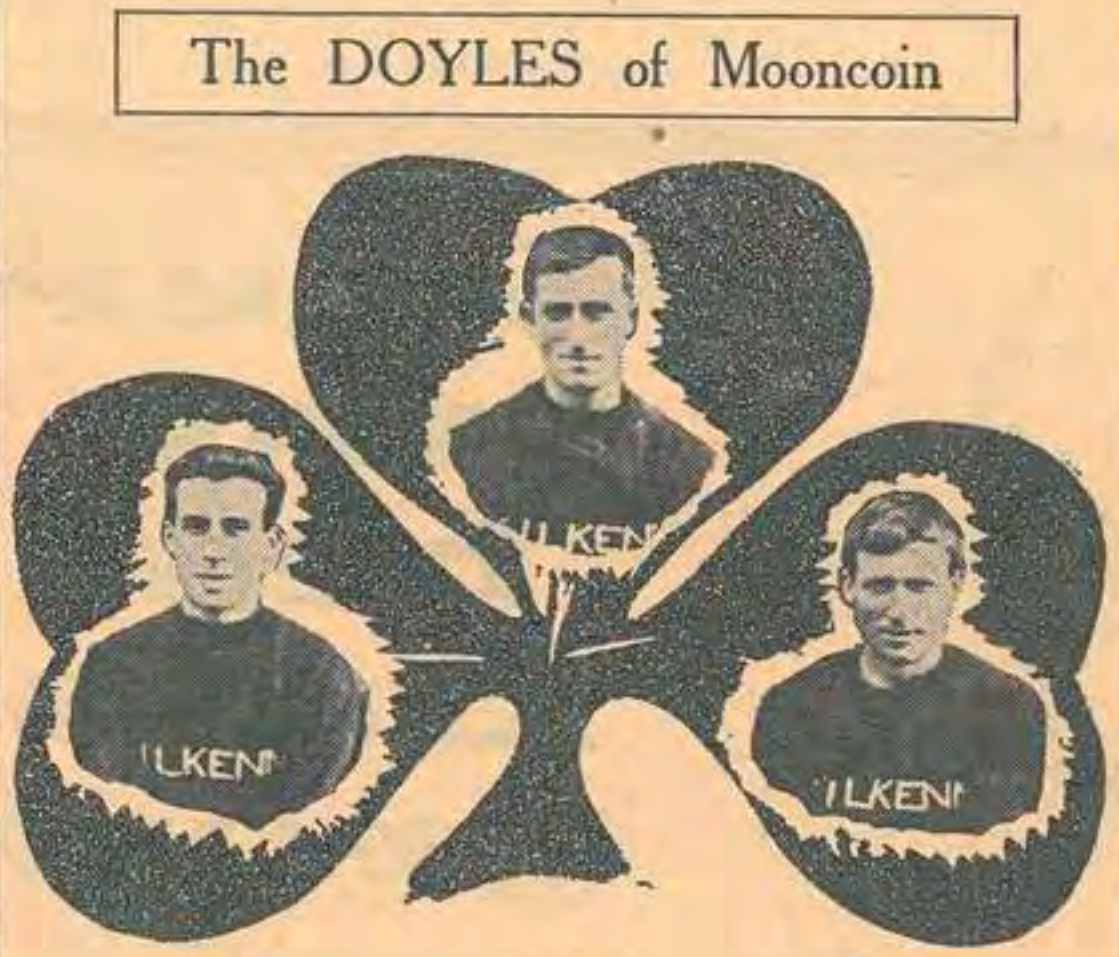
Eddie won five medals—in 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, and 1913; and

Mick also won five medals—in 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, and 1913.

Another famous trio of Kilkenny brothers are good runners-up. The Graces of Tullaroan have fourteen All-Ireland medals.

The late Jack Grace, the most famous of the family, won five All-Ireland football medals with Dublin. His brother, Dr. Pierce Grace, won one football medal with Dublin and three hurling medals with his native Kilkenny; while the third brother, Dick Grace, won five hurling medals with Kilkenny.

The DOYLES of Mooncoin



MICK EDDIE DICK

THE LEAHYS' RECORD.

ELSEWHERE on this page reference is made to the phenomenal performance of the three brothers Doyle of Mooncoin in winning 16 All-Ireland medals, and to the three Graces of Tullaroan, who won 14.

But it is doubtful if the record of the Leahy family of Boherlahan has been equalled by any other family in respect of the number of brothers who won All-Ireland medals. In 1916 the brothers Johnny and Paddy won All-Ireland hurling medals with Tipperary, and they repeated the performance in 1925. Three years later a third brother, Mickie, won an All-Ireland hurling medal with Cork. Two years later still a fourth brother, Tommy, won the 1930 All-Ireland Hurling Championship with Tipperary—and he may yet win another!

Kerry produced another great trio of brothers—J. J. Landers, T. Landers, and W. Landers, who have won eight All-Ireland football medals. J. J. Landers has four, for 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932; W. Landers has two, for 1924 and 1932; and T. Landers has two—1931 and 1932.

SIX MEN—36 MEDALS

ONLY six men in Ireland have won six All-Ireland medals. Five of these are Kerrymen—Joe Barrett, Con Brosnan, Jackie Ryan, Bob Stack, and Jack Walsh, who played in that wonderful football combination that won the All-Ireland title in the years 1924, 1926, 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932.

The sixth man performed the feat with his camán—Dick Doyle of Mooncoin, who won All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny in 1904, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, and 1913.

The LEAHYS of Boherlahan

PADDY

TOMMY

MICK

JOHNNY

AFTER HOURS IN STUFFY PLACES...

Sticky skin

NEEDS *Active* RELIEF

"Fagged out!" you say, after a wearying bout of shopping. And fagged out you look! Because perspiration has filled skin pores with waste during the hours in stuffy indoor air.

Unless the pores are properly cleansed your skin may become permanently sluggish and unhealthy. It needs *deep* cleansing to free the pores and restore their healthy action. Here is Lifebuoy Toilet Soap with its famous antiseptic health element — made specially to restore freshness and to banish completely all the discomfort of sticky skin.

What an invigorating lather! It cleanses deeply, tones up the skin wonderfully. Whether you've been working hard or playing hard a bath with Lifebuoy Toilet Soap is just the pick-me-up you need!

LIFEBUOY *TOILET* SOAP

for personal freshness

MADE IN IRELAND

FAMOUS CLUBS THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY

FIFTY unbroken years make a long sketch of club life. This is particularly true of sporting clubs, where fickle fortune, inseparable from games, gives reason for decay and abandonment.

Despite many difficulties, there are a few outstanding clubs prominent in county and All-Irelands away back in the 'eighties which kept the flag flying through the 'nineties, were always close to championship standard through three stirring decades of the twentieth century, and flourish to-day in strength and vigour.

LEADING TEAMS' RECORDS

IN CORK.

Perhaps the most remarkable of these continuous clubs is the Blackrock National Hurling Club of Cork, whose record is unique. Since 1889 they have won nineteen county championships, five All-Ireland Championships, six Munster Championships, and three Croke Cups, their latest big success being in the 1931 Championships, after three memorable games with Kilkenny.

Many of the leading families were inter-married — Coughlans, O'Learys, Buckleys, Murphys, Norberg, Hayes—and they entered each game with minds made up to dare for the honour of the village. "The Rockies" became hurling peers. They won the 1893, 1894 championship easily, but met powerful opposition through the 1903 title, defeating Kilkenny in the home final, and scoring freely against London Irish. Their recent achievements include the 1926 and 1931 All-Ireland Championships.

THE ROCKIES' RIVALS.

Another Cork club, old as Blackrock and keeping its hurling standard high through all the years down to their present brilliant period, is St. Finnbarrs. Right down through the years St. Finbarrs' name and fame ruled high—the Youngs, Sheehans, O'Learys, Nolans, Moloneys, and Lenihans were the most brilliant hurlers of their times and teams.

Always keen rivals of Blackrock, some of the most magnificent hurling of modern times was seen when they clashed with varying fortune. Blackrock were in the ascendant for a long period. Now it is St. Finbarrs' turn in fortune's wheel.

TIPPERARY.

As became the birthplace of the Association, the first Hurling Championship played—1887—was won by Thurles—that central town which has always taken such a glamorous part in the Association's life.

The Mahers, Stapletons, Dwyers, Ryans, Mocklers, Gleesons were intermarried clans and hurling with them was serious as a battle. Always there or thereabouts in the Tipperary championships, Thurles, led by the peerless winger, Tom Semple, swept all before them in 1906 and 1908 to win both All-Ireland Championships, defeating Ireland's choicest hurlers in the process.

Perhaps the most prolific source of hurling champions in Ireland is that skirt of fertile land lying east of Thurles. It includes Tubberadora—thrice All-Ireland champions; Boherlahan, heroes of many a final; Horse and Jockey, Two-Mile-Borris, Moycarkey, and Holycross.

DUBLIN.

There as the birth of the Association, and still going strong, is the great Faugh-a-Ballagh Club of Dublin. First known as the Faugh-Davitts, the club followed both football and hurling for a long session, before concentrating on hurling under the presidency of Mr. Pat Cullen in the roaring 'nineties. About that time many young hurlers from the provinces sought employment in Dublin, and found hearty welcome in the metropolitans — Faughs, Davis, Grocers, Commercials, Southern Rovers, Raparees, Keatings, and Kickham clubs.

Since 1900, the Faughs have won no fewer than twelve Dublin Senior hurling championships, namely, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1910, 1911, 1914, 1915, 1920, 1923, and 1930. Their best year was probably 1920, when they won the Senior League and Championship, Intermediate League and Championship. They went on to capture the All-Ireland title in that great year, whilst sending out many members in the national struggle. In 1915 Faugh-a-Ballagh Club won the Croke Cup, and four Leinster titles have fallen to their skill—viz., 1901, 1906, 1920, and 1921.

Hurling lovers will remember the groups of brilliant hurlers who served with the Faughs through the years—Andy Harty (R.I.P.), administrator, athlete, hurler; The Dillons, the Hogans, the Clearys, the Connollys, Harry Boland (of vivid memory), Bob Mockler, the Walsh brothers of Mooncoin, and Tommy Moore, the Kilkenny pocket Hercules of many championships, brainy wing forward of a long term of activity and now president of the club, whose shop in Dublin, a Gaelic haunt, is unique in its ornamental display of teams that made history.

Bob Mockler, the greatest midfielder of his period, not long retired, Tom O'Meara and Mick Murphy from Blackrock, Cork, Quirke and Delaney fine backs and scores of other well-known men.

In recent years the Faugh-a-Ballagh organisation owes much of its prosperity to the quiet efficiency of Mr. J. J. Rooney its present secretary, who has thrown endless energy into the club's welfare. Mr. Rooney's selfless work for Irish nationality is well-known at home and abroad. In the forefront of the battle through Easter Week of 1916 "Johnny" Rooney suffered much imprisonment heroically, upholding the fair name which

his brother Willie Rooney the Poet, made immortal in Gaelic hearts.

Mr. Tom O'Meara of Toomevara is Faughs present Captain and one of Dublin's best hurlers whilst James (Builder) Walsh of Tailteann and All Ireland popularity is County Board representative and prominent member of the Leinster Council.

KICKHAMS.

The C. J. Kickham Club of Dublin, formed on Easter Day 1886, has a unique record of winning the All Ireland Championship in hurling and football. Born with the Association, winners of the Hurling Blue Riband in 1889 and 1924, and of the football titles in 1897, 1906 and 1907, they are still going strong after many vicissitudes having borne a big share in the evolution of the G.A.A.

At one time the Kickham membership reached record figures and their services in propagandist games through the country did immense good. Mr. Michael Drumgoole was Secretary through the darkest days of the Club and was a powerful organiser. He had a group of brilliant associates—P J. Walsh, Bill Guiry Gowney, Chambers, Callanan, Jack and Pierce Grace, Madigan, Tommy Quane, Casey, Lynch, and in later years, Sean O'Neill, E. Fleming, D. Coakley, Aylward, M. Heron, and E. Sweeney. The distinguished history of the Kickhams would fill a gaelic volume.

MR. T. MOORE, an old All-Ireland hurler and President of the Dublin Faughs Club.

OTHER DUBLIN CLUBS.

The Young Irelands, of Dublin—Thrice winners of the All-Ireland Championship (1891, 2, 4) in four years, were Ireland's best footballers during an all too brief period, to be followed by the Isles of the Sea (1901). Bray Emmets (1902).

A club with a great record is **Geraldines,** winners of the All-Ireland Championship in 1898, 1899, and 1908, when David Kelleher captained a powerful side. Geraldines have seen a hearty revival in recent years, and are again one of the best individual teams in the county.

RISE OF THE O'TOOLES.

From the Language Classes in the Christian Schools of St. Laurence O'Toole's, where Brother Curtis now presides to such good Gaelic purpose, sprang one of the most successful clubs in the Association. Mr. Frank Cahill was one of the prime movers, and is still a pillar of the Primary School movement. He got a group of enthusiasts around him in 1906, and the School's team won their first competition with Mr. P. O'Donnell an ideal leader. Playing both hurling and football, the O'Tooles went from success to success in Junior and Intermediate ranks. The O'Toole's Pipe Band, also associated with the Gaelic Branch, was equally distinguished, and in the sterner national struggle through 1916 to 1922 the St. Laurence O'Toole Club played a noble part. Many of their members made the great sacrifice—Dia go deó leó.

From their ashes sprang a great football club, which reached its peak of fame in 1922 and 1923, when they twice won the All-Ireland Championship after thrilling struggles against Ireland's best footballers. They have won the Dublin Senior Championship ten times in all, and have won leagues and tournaments without number.

Mr. P. McDonnell, who represented Dublin and Leinster up to 1933, is one of the most remarkable personalities in the game, and a born leader. His physical and mental strength was a cementing force in the building of the great club, which came into being thirty years ago in the Christian Brothers' Schools beneath the spires of St. Laurence O'Toole's Church, and which sent out the great Synnott family of half a dozen brothers, the McDonnells, Carey, O'Reilly, Robbins, etc. In Mr. Seumas Moore they had a great organising President, and there was ever a bond of patriotic loyalty behind the football spirit which saved the club in difficult times, and makes it even today a powerful Gaelicising influence in an environment where strong temptation exists to play other codes.

KILKENNY

Hurling must have been very popular in Kilkenny even in 1367 when the English included a law in the statute to prohibit the "hurling with the small ball." Through the centuries the game lived on. Frequent mention is made in Finn's "Leinster Journal" of games played for big stakes between Kilkenny, Tipperary, and Leix.

From the earliest days of the Association **Tullaroan** was prominent. Quickly came **Mooncoin** on the scene, to be followed by **Erin's Own, Three Castles, Dicksboro',** and **Stephens,** with the present flourishing **Carrickshock.** Tullaroan and Mooncoin made hurling history, and Kilkenny, by winning seven All-Ireland Championships in nine years, created a record which may not be surpassed in our time.

Kilkenny clubs, though small in number, seem to fit in so perfectly that their All-Ireland successes are proverbial. Their Croke Park exhibitions in 1931, 1932 and 1933 were voted the acme of perfection in the hurler's art.

OTHER CLUBS

Wexford's powerful early clubs like Castlebridge and Blackwater have faded out but may recover. In Galway's long association with the G.A.A. we had Meelick of 1887, Ardrahan, Krugers, Tynagh, Gort and Maree—all strong groups. Clare had Tulla and O'Callaghan's Mills going strong in the early years. Kerry had Ballyduff and Kilmoyley, whilst Limerick had superb rural teams at Kilfinane (1897), Caherline and Castleconnell, Monegea and Cloughaun, Leix had Ballygeehan of sustained strength and a rugged team in Abbeyleix, whilst Offaly held a high place in the Association's early years, only to be weakened by continued emigration.

Kerry's brilliant football clubs included the **Laune Rangers** of 1892, the **Mitchels** of Tralee and **Crokes** of Killarney. Yet Kerry's fame came from the happy grouping of players rather than the outstanding genius of any one club.

Mayo **Stephanites,** in which the Courell family always took a prominent part, is the best known of Connacht football clubs, and in Ulster the **Cavan Slashers** were pioneers. Nowadays Ulster and Connacht are paved with powerful clubs, which will loom large in the future history of the Association. Of the many great teams that have been and lapsed into decay like the **Arravale Rovers,** and **Bohercrowe** and **Rosanna's,** of Tipperary, **Tredaghs,** of Louth, **Commercials,** of Limerick, **Rosebery** and **Clane** of Kildare,, and many another of these, it can be said in this Jubilee Year that their names live on.

Only a little local energy is necessary to revive the ashes and rekindle the flame. The younger generation of these homes of athletes have the blood of their sires and may take their place again in the forward march of the Association.

1884-1934

WHEN, fifty years ago, there was being held at Thurles the meeting at which the Gaelic Athletic Association was born, the National Bank was engaged in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its foundation by the Liberator, Daniel O'Connell.

These events were, each in its own sphere and time, intimately related to fundamental national problems and each marked a turning-point in the history of the economic and social advancement of the people. The earlier establishment sprang from the resurgent spirit of economic self-reliance and rehabilitation, the invocation of which was not the least of the Liberator's gifts to his country: in the later movement were crystallised the hopes and ideals of those who wished to recreate a national pride in Athletic prowess and social culture, the tradition of which was one of the most prized inheritances of the race.

On the threshold of its second century, the National Bank is glad to take this opportunity of paying tribute to half a century of achievement by extending its congratulations to the Gaelic Athletic Association on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee.

THE NATIONAL BANK
LIMITED

THE DOUBLE EVENT

Only three times in history has any county won both All-Ireland Championships in the same year.

Cork did it in 1890, Tipperary did it in 1895, and again in 1900.

Kilkenny's First All-Ireland Team, 1904

Kilkenny's first All-Ireland team that defeated Cork at Carrick-on-Suir in the 1904 final on June 24, 1906, by 1 goal 9 points to 1 goal 8 points. Players:—R. Brennan, R. Walsh, E. Doyle, P. Lanigan, J. J. Brennan, D. Grace, J. Hoyne, S. Walton, P. Fielding, D. Stapleton, J. Doheny (captain), J. Lawlor, J. Rochford, P. Maher ("Fox") (goal), R. Doyle, P. Saunders, J. Anthony.

THE ARMY'S PART IN IRISH GAMES

THEIR HELP TO COUNTY SELECTIONS

IT is fitting that the recording of a decade of activity on behalf of the G.A.A. by the Army and Police forces of the State should coincide with the Association's Jubilee Year.

Those who visualised the great part which the new army was to play in sport, and who had been confronted with the problem of pleasing everybody in such a cosmopolitan group, had no little difficulty in laying defined plans as sport was concerned, but the Gaelic section made itself felt in the organising of local matches and the formation of leagues under local control. It soon became known that here the G.A.A. was to have a powerful ally, and with many noted hurlers and footballers in the Army enthusiasm spread.

The first big game between Army selections, and to which the public were admitted, was played at Portobello on March 23, 1923, when the Chief of General Staff team defeated Special Infantry Corps by 1-3 to 0-3 for a set of medals presented by the Chief of Staff, Gen. Sean McMahon, who threw in the ball.

They were making history; and the teams were:—

C.G.S.—Capt. T. Hyland, Lt. Gillespie, Major-General Sean Quinn, Capt. W. O'Kelly, Vol. Holohan, Capt. J. Chisholm, Sergt. Gilmartin, Sergt. Farren (now Lt. Farren, Asst. Sec. A.A.A.); Cpl. J. Boden, Capt. F. O'Brien (Captain), Sergt. Morrison, Vol. M. Byrne, Lt. L. Capper, Lt. J. Purcell, and Cpl. S. Carraher.

S.I.C.—Capt. R. Fitzgerald, Capt. A. Byrne, Capt. M. Kelly, Lt. V. Staines, Lt. J. McConnell, Ptes. C. Daly ("Cocker"), J. McCutcheon, T. Murphy, F. Jameson, M. Duffy, T. Fagan, J. Redmond, W. Byrne, Capt. O'Brian, Pte. M. Goonan.

It was soon found necessary to govern the activities of the Army as a whole, and so the Army Athletic Association was founded on March 31, 1923. The Chief of Staff presided, and the delegates included Major-General Dan Hogan (G.O.C., Dublin), Col. Higgins, Major-Gen. McMahon (G.O.C., Curragh), Capt. B. Whelan, Capt. M. Doyle, Capt. M. Vaughan, Capt. Barry, Capt. Duke, Comdt. Tommy Ryan (the present sec.), Capt. M. Cassidy, Comdt. T. McGrath (the present Chairman), Lt. Phelan, Capt. L. O'Brien, Lt. J. Murphy (of Dublin football fame), Lieut.-Comdt. Broy, Capt. Cryan, Comdt. D. O'Leary, Lt. V. Staines, Lt. A. Cork, Capt. D. J. Sheridan, Comdt. H. G. Smith, Capt. F. O'Brien, Comdt.-Gen. Boylan, and Comdt. P. Colgan.

The Central Council of the G.A.A. was represented by Gen. O'Duffy and Mr. L. J. O'Toole (then Secretary of the G.A.A.), with Mr. A. C. Harty (representing the N.A. and C.A.)

It was a momentous meeting for the Army and the G.A.A., and the result of its deliberations was awaited with great interest, because it was known that the elements composing the Army were divided in their allegiance to different sports bodies.

RECORD OF A DECADE OF ACTIVITY

Gen. O'Duffy urged support for the national games. **"It would," he said, "be a sad day when the Army left aside their own games in favour of others."**

Several of the Army delegates spoke on the subject, and pointed out what a decision meant to themselves and the parent body.

The meeting unanimously resolved to exclude Association, Rugby, Cricket, and Hockey from the games to be catered for by the new Association.

Mr. O'Toole thanked the Army for the decision, and added that it would give a great stimulus to the games. The G.A.A. then presented cups for hurling and football, and these are still the premier trophies in the Army.

Although there was not, nor is there yet, any compulsion regarding individuals and their games, the Convention decision put a new life into Army sport, and soon local leagues were kept busy, and committees formed in every area. Army clubs were now seen taking part in games at venues all over the country.

Games of the period which will be recalled by many readers to-day are those which took part at Cavan, Clones, Baldonnel, the Curragh, the Phoenix Park, Newport, Mallaranny, Clonakilty, Gort, and Naas.

THE FIRST CONVENTION.

The adjourned Convention met on April 29 when for the first time delegates from all over the country were present. Rev. Fr. O'Callaghan, C.F., presided, and the first officials elected were:—

Chairman—Major-General D. Hogan.
Vice-Chairmen — Major-General Tom Ennis and Rev. Fr. O'Callaghan.
Secretary—Comdt. P. Colgan.
Treasurer—Major-Gen. F. Cronin.

The members of the new Executive were:—Rev. Fr. Fehilly, Rev. Fr. Piggott, Capt. Keogh, Rev. Fr. McCarthy, Col. A. Brennan, Capt. Kelly, Capt. Scanlon, Capt. McIntyre, Comdt. Broy, Comdt. Coughlan, Major-Gen. Sean Quinn, and Gen. Boylan.

The question of the ban on foreign games was again discussed, and the difficulty of providing for all tastes in the Army led to a long debate. Some delegates held that the Association might usefully cater for all, and that it was very difficult to leave out any section of sport from the programme.

It was decided by 14 votes to 7 not to cater for "foreign" games, and thereby the decision of the inaugural meeting was ratified.

At this meeting Mr. Dan McCarthy,

The Army Metro Team

Army Metro team, winners of the St. Vincent de Paul Cup 1933-'34. Rev. M. Troy, M.A., is seated in the centre of the group.

The Thurles House for Gaels.

JAMES MAHER & SONS,

1, 2, & 3 PARNELL STREET, THURLES

On your Way to The Gaelic Grounds.

YOU CAN MEET ALL THE OLD GAELS HERE.

BEST DRINKS and SANDWICHES, Freshly Cut, SUPPLIED AT BAR.

Luncheons and Teas in Upstairs Restaurant at Very Moderate Prices.

T.D., President of the G.A.A., presented the G.A.A. Cups, and expressed the hope that the Army champions and the All-Ireland champions would meet later on.

The announcement was received with satisfaction throughout the country, but it was not until early in 1924 that the champions met.

The new Executive had its first meeting in May, when Rev. Father O'Callaghan presided, and the first Standing Committee was appointed, consisting of the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, and in addition Father Pigott, Major-Gen. Sean Quinn, Col. Broy, and Capt. McIntyre.

The Council was now definitely set to go ahead with the games within the Army, and inter-county competitions were ordered. At the same time players were encouraged, if they so desired, to play with the clubs to which they had been attached prior to joining the Army, as many of these had been depleted.

The Inter-Company and Inter-Battalion games had stirred every Gael in the Army to enthusiasm, and at the Executive Council meeting in June it was announced that there were 270 teams in the Army, and that a big drive was also being made in handball.

Command Championships were established, and for the first inter-battalion contests 30 teams were entered.

£10,000 SUBSCRIBED.

The equipment of teams was a matter of concern, but the enthusiasm of the Army was soon reflected when a sum of £10,000 was subscribed, and every penny of it spent in the country.

The first big test for public support came when at Croke Park, on July 15, hurlers from the Cork and Limerick Commands, and footballers from the Curragh and Dublin Commands faced each other in aid of the Wounded Soldiers' Comforts Fund. The fund benefitted to the extent of £236.

Cork won the hurling by 6-1 to 4-1, and the Curragh took the football honours by 2-2 to 1-3. Col. Cronin refereed the hurling, and Capt. Jack Fitzgerald, a noted Kildare player, the football.

Hegarty, Swain, Brady, McCarthy, Murphy, and Desmond were brilliant for Cork, and McGrath, Murphy, Lynch (2), Ryan (2), Mockler, Burnell and Dundon for Limerick.

For the Dublin Command, Paul Doyle, Higgins (goal), O'Brien, McAllister, McGettrick were prominent, and Fahy, McIvor, Kennedy, Warnock, O'Beirne, Hudson, O'Farrell, Whelan, Lohan, Sherlock for Curragh.

SOLDIERS v. GARDA.

On August 24 the Garda hurlers met an Army selection at Croke Park before a large crowd, when the Garda won on that occasion, and the game did much to weld the Services in a common effort to further the games.

The first All-Army Sports week was held at Croke Park from August 25 to September 2, 1923. During this week the first hurling and football championships were decided.

In football Dublin Command beat G.H.Q. by 3-6 to 2-0. And in hurling Limerick beat Dublin by 7-10 to 2-2 In these finals several notable players took part. Harry Cannon kept goal for G.H.Q., and other players engaged included Paul Doyle, Peter Synott, M. J. O'Brien, Quinn, Barry, McAllister, Doran, Doherty, and Dempsey.

In the hurling final the Brothers Lynch (2), Lanigan, King, Ryan, Carroll shared the scoring for Limerick, and Fr. Pigott, Major-General Dan Hogan, and Coyle were prominent for Dublin. Capt. O'Brien took part in both games for Dublin, but was injured in the hurling game, and Major-General Hogan came on.

Following the championships there were many representative games between the Army groups, and Capt. Liam O'Brien and Capt. Fred Doherty began to organise the Commands.

Army players began to figure in outside competitions, and Tom Finlay and "Dexter" Aylward helped the Kickhams to win the Dublin Hurling League.

The officers were taking a leading part in the games, and when G.H.Q. met Donegal in a football contest at Croke Park, two Major-Generals took part—Major-General Quinn (G.H.Q.), and Major-General J. Sweeney (Donegal).

Every section in the Army was warmed up by the successes of the Gaels, and the Army Chaplains (Hurling), and Medical Services Officers (Football) offered new trophies for competition.

With this added incentive for the future the first year of the Army's athletic existence closed on a happy note.

FIRST GREAT VICTORY.

The games between the Army champions and All-Ireland champions were awaited by the Gaels in many parts of the country, but the hurling game was not played, as Kilkenny did not meet the Army men.

Dublin turned out in Croke Park on February 24 (1924), and were beaten by 0-5 to 0-1 before a magnificent attendance.

Dublin had four changes from the team that had defeated Galway in the All-Ireland Final, and the Army included Comdt. Tommy Ryan (Tipperary), Johnny Murphy (Keatings), and Paul Doyle and Jack Higgins (Kildare). Johnny McDonald and P. Synott appeared with Dublin.

It was Dublin's first defeat since they were beaten by Tipperary in the 1920 All-Ireland Final.

It was a memorable game in many ways. There was no score in the first half, and Nunan (1 point), J. P. Murphy (3 points), and Ryan (1 point) were the Army scorers.

The following composed the army team —Ryan (captain), Cannon, O'Doherty, Whelan, J. Higgins, Calleran, E. Higgins, Doran, J. Murphy, J. P. Murphy, M'Allester, Curtis, Brosnan, Nunan, Doyle.

It was hoped that these games would continue, but they were dropped. Perhaps they may be revived this year. It would be a fine gesture in the Jubilee Year.

Local competitions within the Army began to increase, but at the annual Congress of the G.A.A. the motion to give the Army the status of a Province was defeated.

At the annual Convention of the Army this year a resolution to cater for all games was again brought forward, but defeated by 18 votes to 6.

ARMY METRO'S PREDECESSORS.

The following year the hurlers of the Dublin Area decided to enter for the Dublin competitions, and under the name of the McKee H.C. won the League title. **The club later became the Army Metro H.C., which in this great year claims one of the finest hurling records in history, having won the Dublin Senior Championship and League, and also the Intermediate Championship and League, and await other honours now.**

Army Clubs are sought after by many, as their sporting spirit has become acknowledged throughout the country.

Their internal organisation has come successfully through many vicissitudes, but the games continue to prosper. Many of those at the head of affairs throughout these years have lived to see one of the most virile organisations connected with the games.

There is some satisfaction for those who have laboured earnestly for the propagation of the native pastimes within the Army.

Successive "chiefs" down to the present President of the Association, Major-General M. Brennan, who at one time was Chairman of the Limerick Athletic Board, have given a lead. In Comdt Colgan, Comdt. P. Ennis, and the present Secretary, Comdt. T. Ryan, the Association have had earnest workers, and there are many to-day still carrying on the good work of the early days.

These include Rev. Father Hamilton (Clare), a former chaplain; Major T. McGrath, present Chairman, who is also Chairman of the Dublin Co. Board; Captain Sean Clancy, Sec. Army Metro Club; Comdt. T. Ryan (present Secretary), Lieut. J. A. Farren (Asst. Sec.); Comdt. Colgan (Kildare Board), D. O'Neill, Johnny Stapleton, Capt. Sean O'Beirne, Capt. Johnny McDonald, Capt. M. J. O'Brien, Capt. Sean Neligan, Joe Bannon (Young Irelands), Capt. J. Hogan (Clare), Lieut. J. J. Hogan (Curragh), Paul Doyle, Capt. A. Lohan, Major Tom McNally, N. Mockler, Capt. B. Whelan, Martin Power, Comdt. McCann, Bomb. Murrehy, Sgt. Fenneral, Comdts. Bill Doyle, Pte. Sheridan, Sergts. Dillon, McCormack, and Douglas, Sergt. Keogh, Pte. Keogh, Cpl. Hennessey, and Cpl. Matt Goff.

The Army has been represented in every All-Ireland final since 1922, and Capt. J. P. Murphy, one of the pioneers of the G.A.A. in the Army, had the pleasure of training his native county team (Cavan), to win last year's All-Ireland Football honours.

ARMY MEN EVERYWHERE.

The following players are at present playing with county selections:—

Dublin—Comdt. Johnny McDonald, Capt. M. J. O'Brien, Ptes. Kavanagh, Hughes, Halford, and Forde; Cpls. A. Murphy, J. Culleton, P. Roche, Sergt. T. Delaney, Pte. S. Hegarty, Cpl. F. Hegarty, Pte. J. O'Connell.

Kilkenny—Pte. M. Power.

Galway—Pte. McCarthy (Irish-speaking Battalion).

Tipperary—Cpl. T. Teehan, Pte. M. Daniels.

Clare.—Capt. J. Hogan, Sergt.-Major Houlihan.

Laoighis—Cpl. D. Walsh, Sergt. D. Douglas, Bomb. Price.

Mayo—Lieut. T. Hanly, Lieut. Naughton.

Kildare—Cpl. McGoff, Pte. O'Byrne.

The Kildare hurling team is mainly composed of Army players.

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LEADING THE WAY IN EVERY COUNTY

THERE could have been little doubt as to the intentions of the newly-formed police service of the State regarding their attitude towards the National games, and from the Commissioner down to the latest recruit they manifested to all that they were to be a national force in every sense of the word.

The men themselves had been closely associated with the National games before the advent of the new force, and hence the seed had been sown from which was to grow one of the greatest allies of the parent body.

By reason of the disposition of units it was not possible to show the full strength of the followers of the games outside some of the bigger centres, such as Dublin, Cork, and Limerick, but, backed up by the encouragement of such as General O'Duffy, Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner Coogan, Superintendents Feore, Noonan, Dick Creagh, and a host of many well-known county players, the enthusiasm for the games rapidly spread throughout the Service.

Whilst the Metropolitan members were gathering their forces during 1922 and early in 1923, it was not until June, 1923, that the teams came out into the open.

LOCAL CONTESTS.

The Coiste Siamsa or governing body of sport had been working hard to fit in their players as best they could to give local competitions a fillip, and although a Divisional Garda team (Limerick in 1925) actually did win a county championship, it was impossible to provide teams outside the Metropolitan area. Individuals, however, were doing, as they still are, great work in country districts for the games, and this despite handicaps of many kinds.

Before the D.M.P. was absorbed into the Garda, many local contests between the clubs provided interest. Soon the hurling and football sections began to measure their relative strengths.

To-day the fame of the Garda hurling and football teams is known everywhere the games have been heard of.

The first big test for the hurlers was in the Croke Park tournament, in which Dublin hurling followers had a glimpse of the new hurling force. After going through the preliminaries, creating a great impression, they defeated the Faughs in the final on July 11, 1923.

It was a midweek final, and attracted a large crowd. That day every Gael in the country knew of the Garda hurlers. It was but the first of a remarkable run of successes.

THE FIRST TEAM.

The team was trained by Jim Foster, and those who took part in the first games were—McInerney ("Fowler"), P. Barry, Martin Hayes, P. Healy, Jack Ryan, Garrett Howard, G. Burke, Mat Burke, M. Noonan, E. Tobin, Tom Noonan J. Cahill, J. Gray, W. O'Brien, M. McMahon, J. Doherty, Deputy-Commissioner Coogan, Supt. Feore, Jack Conroy, M. Sullivan, Jim Healy (now Sec. I.A.B.A.) and Sergt. Holmes.

In the following month, at Croke Park, the Garda faced and beat a strong Army selection.

Shortly afterwards the Garda won the Saturday Hurling League, and the winners included Jim Healy, McInerney, Tobin, and McMahon, still in the service.

In 1924 the team entered for all the senior competitions in Dublin, and made their first big hit when winning the Croke Park Tournament, the Senior Hurling League, and the Saturday League

So popular had the Services' teams now become, that annual contests were arranged between the Army and Garda selections. In the first of these the Garda won, and so completed a great year.

FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP.

The following year the Garda had together a splendid combination, and won their first Dublin Championship, which they did not soon let slip from their grasp.

A halt was cried when in the closing stages of a great game the Army won the President's Cup.

IN HURLING FOOTBALL AND HANDBALL

The Garda, however, had the honour of selecting the team which won the Leinster Championship.

Garda victories new began to rouse up the entire province, and in 1926 the **Garda hurlers won a double event, capturing both the Dublin League and the Championship.**

They regained the President's Cup, and with a Dublin selection were narrowly beaten by Cork in the final of the National Hurling League.

Greater deeds were yet to come, and 1927 must rank as the most memorable year in the history of the Garda hurlers.

ALL-IRELAND WINNERS.

Their success in the Dublin Championship was followed up with another victory over the Army for the President's Cup, and a success in the Leinster Championship was added to by the Garda Dublin Selection winning the All-Ireland Championship, when they defeated Cork in the final.

In 1928 they retained their County Dublin titles, and won the President's Cup outright—**a competition which the Garda are anxious to revive in this the Jubilee Year.**

In 1929 they again won the Dublin

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Among the most notable names the following come quickly to mind: Frank Coughlan, Jack Grace, Pat Casey, Paddy Walsh, Michael Drumgoole, Stephen O'Connor, Sean Gibbons, T.D., etc.

Clerys are proud to have been associated so long with this great Irish movement and in this its Golden Jubilee Year take the opportunity of wishing the G.A.A. ever-increasing growth and prosperity.

CLERYS - DUBLIN

League and Championship, and with a Co. Dublin Selection defeated Cork in the final of the National League.

In 1930 their only success was in the Dublin Senior League, for they were defeated in the final of the Championship by their old rivals, the Faughs.

The following year the Garda regained the Dublin County Championship, and so completed a wonderful record, having won 6 of the 7 championships in which they took part.

In 1932 they were defeated in both the League and Championship, and last year lost the Championship to one of the strongest Army teams yet to appear in these competitions.

None was more ready to congratulate the sister Service than the Garda hurlers, who have so long kept together against all-comers. The Garda team enters upon Jubilee Year full of confidence.

Names like Ned Tobin, "Fowler" McNamee, Mick Gill, Matty Power, Garret Howard, John Grey, Jerry Burke, T. Quinlan, Paddy Barry, J. Doherty, Jack Conroy, Paddy Browne, Gleeson Fahy, Burrell, O'Rourke, Martin Hayes Mick and Jim Grace, Joe Kelly, Mick Finn, J. Phelan, W. Dunphy, and Dan McHugh will ever be associated with the proud victories of the Garda hurlers.

GARDA FOOTBALLERS.

The story of Gaelic football in the Garda is one of enthusiasm and love for the game, and probably few club combinations at the present could extend them fully.

It would be well to realise the difficulty with which the Coiste Siamsa was faced at the outset.

A senior team was entered for the Dublin competitions, and did remarkably well against strong Dublin combinations reaching the final of the Dublin Championship to be well beaten by the redoubtable holders, O'Tooles

The following was the personnel of the first Garda Senior team, and many of the names still come before the public:—

Supt. R. Creagh (Chairman of the Football Board), Sergt. Jack Moran (Ballinastoe), Sergt. Jack Rice, Sergt. J. Cunniffe, Gardai M. Smith (Ballinasloe), C. Flynn, M. Langton, P. Redmond, A. Hayes, M. McCoy, J. McMahon, Sgt. L. Wickham, J. McGahern, S. Williams, J. Kirwan, W. McNamee, W. McMahon, P. Colleran, and T. Kelly (playing with the present team).

During the following three years, owing to transfers, it was impossible to keep a regular fifteen together.

In 1926 a reorganised team appeared and won the Dublin Senior League. That year the Minister for Defence put up a Cup for competition between the Army and Garda teams, and this was won by the Garda.

The following year the team won its first Co. Dublin Senior Championship, and retained the Minister for Defence Cup. Ill-luck again, however, dogged their efforts, as when All-Ireland honours looked likely their forces became scattered once more.

In 1928 another effort was made, and the team reached the final of the Dublin Championship, and again won the Defence Cup.

The following year, after several fine displays, they regained the Championship from the holders—O'Tooles.

There was a feeling the following year that the Garda players should be released to assist civilian clubs, and so a team was not entered for the Dublin competitions.

The team was again reorganised for the 1931-1932 seasons, but met with little success.

Last year the team took both League and Championship honours, and entered the present year's competitions with one of the strongest club combinations that ever appeared at Croke Park.

There is a wonderful team spirit in the present list, and they should achieve many honours this year.

FAMOUS NAMES.

There are many names which will ever be associated with the football teams, and amongst these is the late Sergt. Jack Murphy, a famous son of the "Kingdom," and Superintendent Kilivy, who had the **unparalleled distinction of winning three provincial medals—with Wexford, Galway, and Monaghan.** Others who have ever been in the limelight are Jim Smith, who had the distinction of leading the Cavan team to All-Ireland victory, and Paul Russell, laden with many honours.

The present team, with the counties of which they are natives, consists of, amongst others:—Smith (Cavan), Russell (Kerry), Comerford (Clare), Perry (Roscommon), O'Reilly (Kildare), Keogh (Kildare), Breen (Westmeath), Pringle (Kildare), McGettrick (Sligo), McMahon (Clare), Dowd (Sligo), Brennan (Dublin), Lambe (Monaghan), Ormsby (Mayo), Delaney (Laoighis) Behan (Kildare), Mullaney (Roscommon), M Kelly (Galway), J. Kelly (Dublin).

GARDA HANDBALLERS.

The following are the present Garda champions:—

Senior H.B.—Garda P. Reid (Carlow)

Inter. H.B.—Garda T. O'Keeffe (Galway).

Junior H.B.—Garda T. Kavanagh (Kildare).

Senior S.B.—Garda P. Perry (Depot).

Inter. S.B.—Garda Pringle (Depot).

Junior S.B.—Garda T. Simpson (Tipperary).

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THE G.A.A. CHARTER

ARCHBISHOP CROKE'S CLARION CALL

THE following is the text of the historic letter which Most Reverend Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, wrote to Michael Cusack three weeks after the establishment of the G.A.A.:—

"The Palace,
"Thurles,
"December 18, 1884.

"My Dear Sir—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication inviting me to become a patron of the Gaelic Athletic Association, of which you are, it appears, the Hon. Secretary. I accede to your request with the utmost pleasure.

"One of the most painful, let me assure you, and, at the same time, one of the most frequently recurring reflections that, as an Irishman, I am compelled to make in connection with the present aspect of things in this country, is derived from the ugly and irritating fact that we are daily importing from England not only her manufactured goods, which we cannot help doing since she has practically strangled our own manufacturing appliances, but together with her fashions, her accents, her vicious literature, her music, her dances, and her manifold mannerisms, her games also and her pastimes, to the utter discredit of our own grand national sports, and to the sore humiliation, as I believe, of every genuine son and daughter of the old land.

"Ball-playing, hurling, football-kicking, according to the Irish rules, 'casting, leaping in various ways, wrestling, handy-grips, top pegging, leap frog, rounders, tip-in-the-hat, and all such favourite exercises and amusements amongst men and boys, may now be said to be not only dead and buried, but in several localities to be entirely forgotten and unknown.

"And what have we got in their stead? We have got such foreign and fantastic field sports as lawn tennis, polo, croquet, cricket, and the like—very excellent, I believe, and health-giving exercises in their way, still not racy of the soil, but rather alien on the contrary to it as are, indeed, for the most part, the men and women who first imported and still continue to patronise them.

"And, unfortunately, it is not our national sports alone that are held in dishonour and are dying out, but even our most suggestive national celebrations are being gradually effaced and extinguished, one after another as well. No doubt there is something rather pleasing to the eye in the get-up of a modern young man, arrayed in light attire, with parti-coloured cap on and racquet in hand, who is making his way, with or without a companion, to the tennis ground.

"But, for my part, I should vastly prefer to behold, or think of, the youthful athletes whom I used to see in my early days at fair and pattern, bereft of shoes and coat, and thus prepared to play at football, to fly over any number of horses, to throw the sledge or winding-stone, and to test each other's mettle and activity by the trying ordeal of three leaps or a hop, step, and jump.

"Indeed, if we continue travelling for the next score of years in the same direction that we have been going in for some time past, condemning the sports that were practised by our forefathers, effacing our national features as though we were ashamed of them, and putting on, with England's stuffs and broadcloths, her masher habits and such other effeminate follies, as she may recommend, we had better, at once, and publicly, abjure our nationality, clap hands for joy at sight of the Union Jack, and place 'England's bloody red' exultantly above the green.

"Deprecating, as I do, any such dire and disgraceful consummation, and seeing in your society of athletes something altogether opposed to it, I shall be happy to do all for it that I can, and authorise you now formally to place my name on the roll of your patrons.

"In conclusion, I earnestly hope that our national journals will not disdain in future to give suitable notices of these Irish sports and pastimes which your society means to patronise and promote, and that the masters and pupils of our Irish colleges will not henceforth exclude from their athletic programme such manly exercises as I have just referred to and commemorated.

"I remain, my dear sir, your very faithful servant,

"✠ T. W. CROKE,
"Archbishop of Cashel."

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THE LATE MR. LUKE O'TOOLE

MAN WHO SERVED UNDER FIVE PRESIDENTS

28 YEARS SECRETARY

IN this year of grateful recollections it would be ungenerous if no tribute were paid to the late Mr. Luke O'Toole, the General Secretary of the Association from 1901, when he succeeded the late Mr. Frank B Dineen, to 1929, when he died, still in office. At the time he took up the position the G.A.A. was a scattered and disjointed organisation, almost bereft of funds, influence, and unity of purpose. The task of rebuilding it on its original foundations and keeping it to its fundamental aims seemed well-nigh hopeless; but it was accomplished.

The long term of the late Ald. James Nowlan's Presidency and the still longer period of Mr. O'Toole's Secretaryship covered the most progressive era in the history of the Association. It saw unity and purpose established in ever-extending ranks, the creation of Provincial Councils and all that they made possible, the recovery of lost ground in the dispatch of the All-Ireland Championships, the acquisition of Croke Park, the revival of the Tailteann Games, and a hundred more developments that contributed incalculably to make the G.A.A. the national institution it is to-day.

THE LATE LUKE O'TOOLE.

During all those many years of anxiety, progress, and eventual triumph Luke O'Toole was ever at his post, till in later years he shared with his President and personal friend, Seamus Ua Nuallain, the gratification of seeing their labours crowned with splendid success, and the movement secured for future generations. Theirs was, moreover, an epoch when the political history of Ireland was made more decisively than in all the previous century, and the Association they guided and served was always near to the national core of events.

Luke O'Toole served under five Presidents, and the work was always congenial to him. He was a native of Wicklow, and had been connected with the G.A.A. from an early age in Dublin. He lies at peace amidst the sleeping clansmen of his historic native territory, honoured for the work he did and remembered in its fruitfulness. Beannact De le'n a anam.

PADRAIG O'KEEFFE.

CROKE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The All-Ireland inter-county matches played in 1913 in hurling and football to raise funds for the purchase of Croke Park assumed the importance of an All-Ireland championship.

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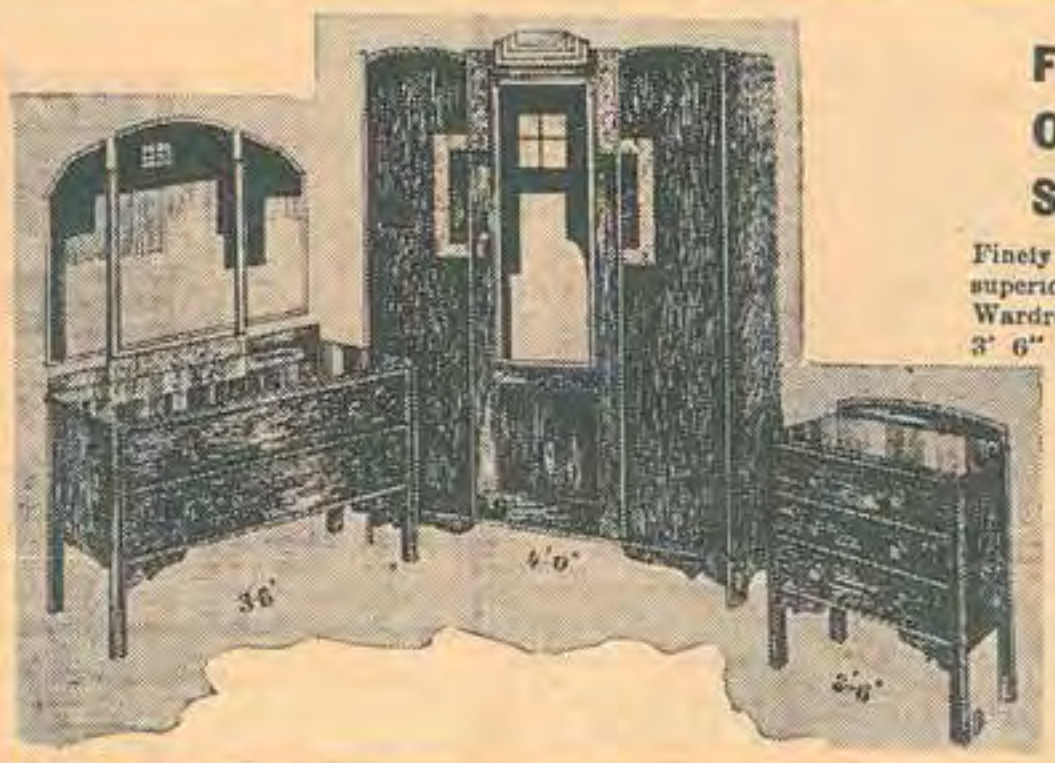

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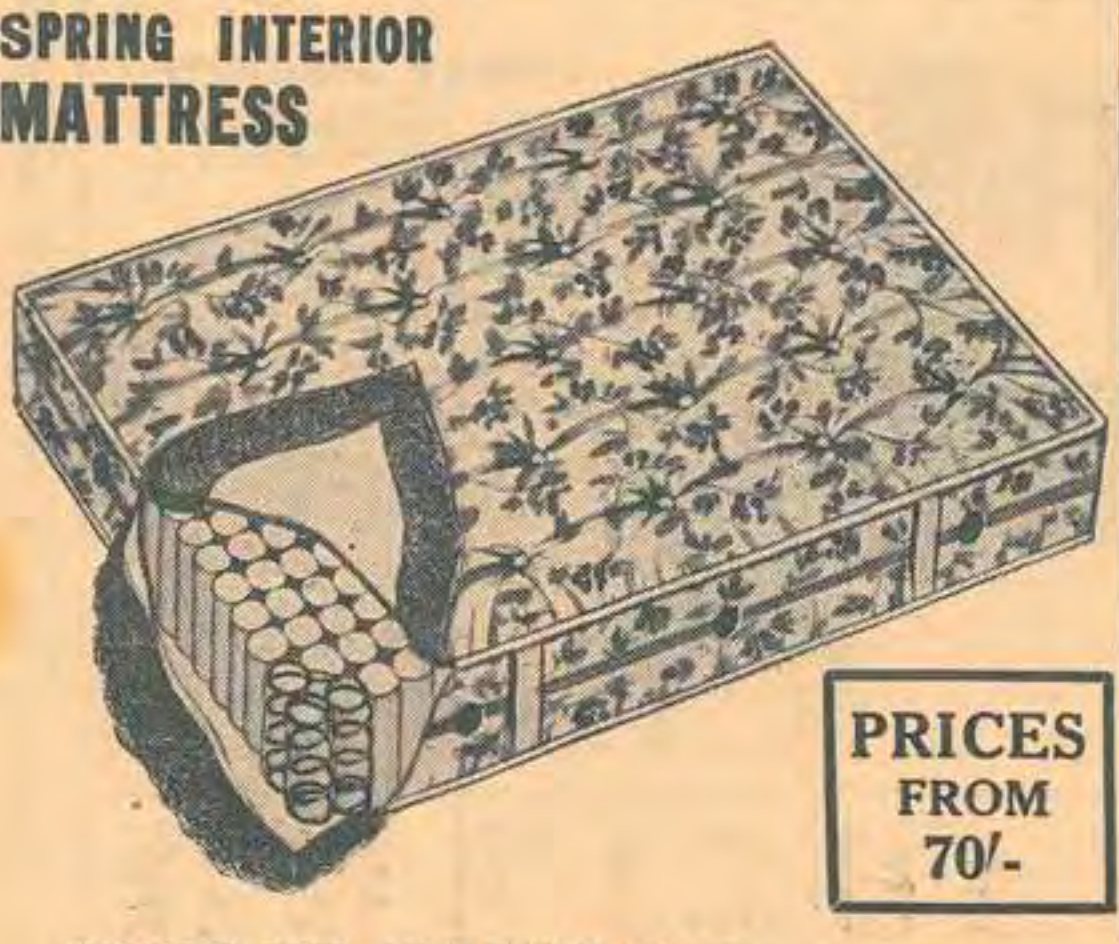

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Cavan.—J. Smith (capt.) (non-resident), W. Young (goal), M. Denneny, P. Phair, T. O'Reilly (Cornafean), P. Lynch (Bailieboro'), H. O'Reilly (Cootehill), W. Connolly (Cootehill and Erin's Hope, Dublin), T. Coyle, L. Blessing (Cavan), P. Devlin (Killeshandra), D. Morgan (Cross), J. Smallhorn (Crosslough), V. McGovern (Virginia and University College, Dublin), M. J. McGee (Drumlane). Sub.—T. Crowe (Cavan).

HURLING

Kilkenny.—E. Doyle (capt.), J. Dunne (Mooncoin), J. Dermody (goal), L. Meagher, P. Phelan, P. Larkin, M. White (Tullaroan), P. O'Reilly, P. Byrne (Dicksboro'), J. Walsh, J. Fitzpatrick (Carrickshock), E. Byrne, T. Leahy (Young Irelands, Dublin), Martin Power (Army Metro., do.), Matty Power (Garda, do.) Subs.—J. Duggan (Mooncoin), J. O'Connell (Dicksboro').

A LINK WITH THE PAST!

The G.A.A. is fifty years old and is this year celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its foundation. Golden days — those early pioneer days when great men full of conviction and faith conceived and planned and organised this mighty movement despite almost insuperable difficulties.

The G.A.A. and "New Ireland" are much akin in ideals though working in different spheres. New Ireland Assurance Co., Ltd., in the economic sphere is working for a future Ireland, self reliant and self dependent, in which the wealth of the people will be invested in Irish undertakings and Irish securities and for their own benefit and their own welfare.

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HANDBALL: G.A.A. HELP GIVES IT NEW LIFE

GAME IN WHICH IRISHMEN EXCEL

THE game of handball has always been one of the most popular of our Irish pastimes. Most of the alleys were attached to wayside inns, and consisted merely of three walls, sometimes only one wall.

There were a number of four wall courts on private property in Dublin, Co. Dublin, Kilkenny, Cork, Cork Co., Carlow, Galway, Tipperary, Wexford, and Limerick, built, possibly, for racquets. The players who got practice in these courts became first class exponents, and made the game famous not alone in Ireland but in America.

Patrick Donnelly, Clondaw, Co. Wexford, a champion, who lived to a ripe old age and who was buried in Castle Ellis about 1884; and Wm. Baggs, Co. Tipperary, could defeat all comers, playing with their feet alone.

FAMOUS PLAYERS.

Phil Casey held the American title in the '80's, and defeated John Lawler in a home-and-home rubber for the world's championship in 1887. The first half was played in Cork, and the second in Brooklyn. Tralee provided two champions in James Fitzgerald and Tom Jones—now Father Jones, P.P. Other famous players were Mike Egan, Galway; J. J. Kelly, Kiltimagh; Tim Twohil, Kanturk (whose death was announced in the "Irish Independent" on February 8 of this year); J. J. Bowles, Limerick; Oliver Drew and Wm. Herlihy, Cork; Joe O'Leary and Dave Roche, Fermoy; P. Coyne, Carlow, and P. Lyons, Dublin.

Another good batch of players were Martin Butler (Kilkenny), a noted maker of handballs; Nolan and McGrath (Carlow); Billie and Burke Devey (Dublin). Burke could return a ball with his feet as skilfully as with his hands. John Corrigan was chosen by John Lawler as his partner because of his strong tossing. Paddy Drennan, a real stylist, was one of the swiftest that ever played in Patrick Street. Joe O'Brien's tossing from the line was a treat. He was uncanny in his placing. As a boy of 18 he beat John Lawler shortly after his return from America.

The pastime was kept alive by players meeting each other for small bets, and by matches between players from different counties for side-stakes. The cost of travelling made the game expensive, and players seldom went further than the surrounding counties. Cork was famous for its tournaments, and all the best hard ball players competed there. Good tournaments were also played in Co. Wexford, and it was reputed that there was more ball played there than in the rest of Ireland. Kilkenny was also noted for medal tournaments for the championship.

THE GAME IN DUBLIN.

An effort was made by the G.A.A. clubs in Dublin about 1904 to organise the game, and they held a tournament in Patrick St. Court. The opening match was played between Tom Hogan and Pat Keenan against Tim Hurley and Tom Redmond. It was won by Hurley and Redmond, but they were disqualified for being professionals. The championship was won by Andy Harty and Paddy Gilsenan. It was continued the following year, but seems to have fallen away soon afterwards.

A tournament was run by Young Irelands in 1909, in Ashtown, for which 99 entered. A fillip was given to the game in Dublin by a yearly competition which the South City Athletic Club started about 1910. This continued for a few years and brought out Morgan Pembroke, who afterwards won both the junior and senior hard ball championships of Ireland. This club also ran an amateur All-Ireland Championship for the Murphy Cup.

It was the revival of the Tailteann Games that really established the amateur game and brought about the Association that provided annual inter-county and All-Ireland Championships. Unfortunately, a few of Ireland's out-

The First Standing Committee

The original Standing Committee of the A.I.H.A. From Left—Seated: Gen. E. O'Duffy, the late "Andy" Harty, and Col. E. Broy. Standing: S. O'Hanlon, J. McGrath, T. J. O'Reilly, J. F. Shouldice, and R. Carroll.

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MADE IN IRELAND SINCE 1922

standing players did not fall in line with the movement, and when the home team faced America in the Tailteann International Championship such players as Morgan Pembroke and J. J. Kelly were spectators.

The standardising and covering of the Garda ball-court, Phoenix Park, made it convenient for visitors to see all the matches during the last two Tailteann Festivals.

The Depôt court is always at the disposal of the G.A.A., and all Senior Hard ball matches are fixed there in doubtful weather.

In the 1928 Games the International Championship was confined to Ireland, Scotland, and England.

Handball was one of the games on the original programme of the G.A.A., but the Association did little to promote it until 1922, when the Leinster Handball Council was formed, receiving a grant of £50 a year from the Leinster Council.

Since the formation of the All-Ireland Association the Central Council has been generous in contributions. Since taking the game under its auspices the G.A.A. has given about £2,000 in grants, as well as building a ball court which cost nearly as much.

Since then the game has never looked back. In 1930, for example, 135 All-Ireland matches were played, and in Dublin last year there were 650 entries for 17 competitions representing 985 matches.

The presenting of the cups for the All-Ireland Championships by Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, and Messrs. Purcell, of Dublin, added greater interest in the Singles competitions. Every hard ball player is anxious to have his name inscribed on the Harty Cup, while the soft ball players have an interest in the Purcell Cup.

A WONDERFUL PLAYER.

Tom Soye, who won his first title in the Dublin G.A.A. Schoolboys' Championship in 1919, won the Dr. Harty Cup six years in succession from 1926 to 1931, when an injury to his knee prevented him from continuing in the competition. He was presented with a replica.

Last year proved the most satisfactory since the Association started. The following were affiliated:—Armagh, Carlow, Cavan, Cork, Drogheda Dublin Galway, Galway U.C., Kilkenny, Leix, Louth, Limerick, Longford, Meath Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Tyrone, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow.

R. O'C.

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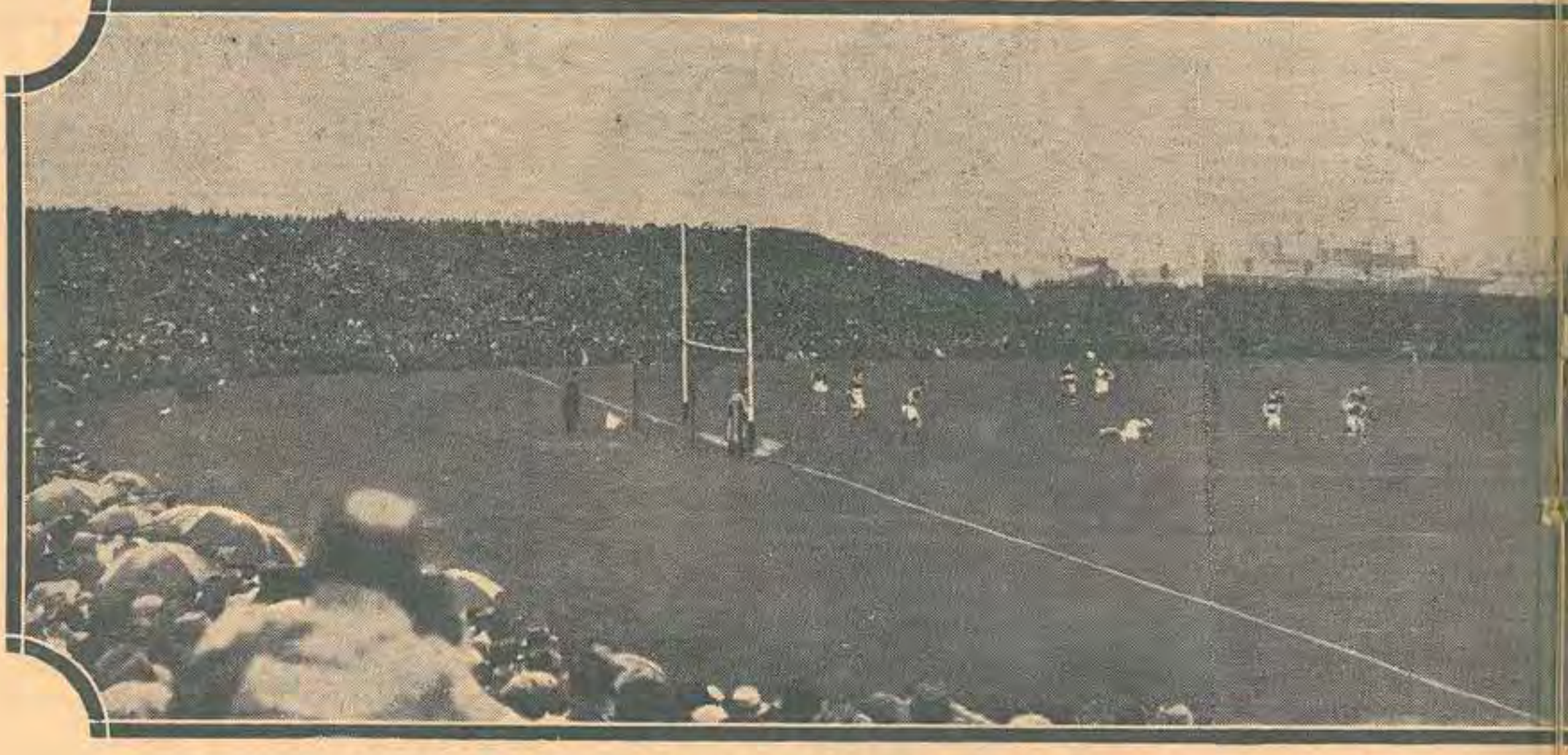
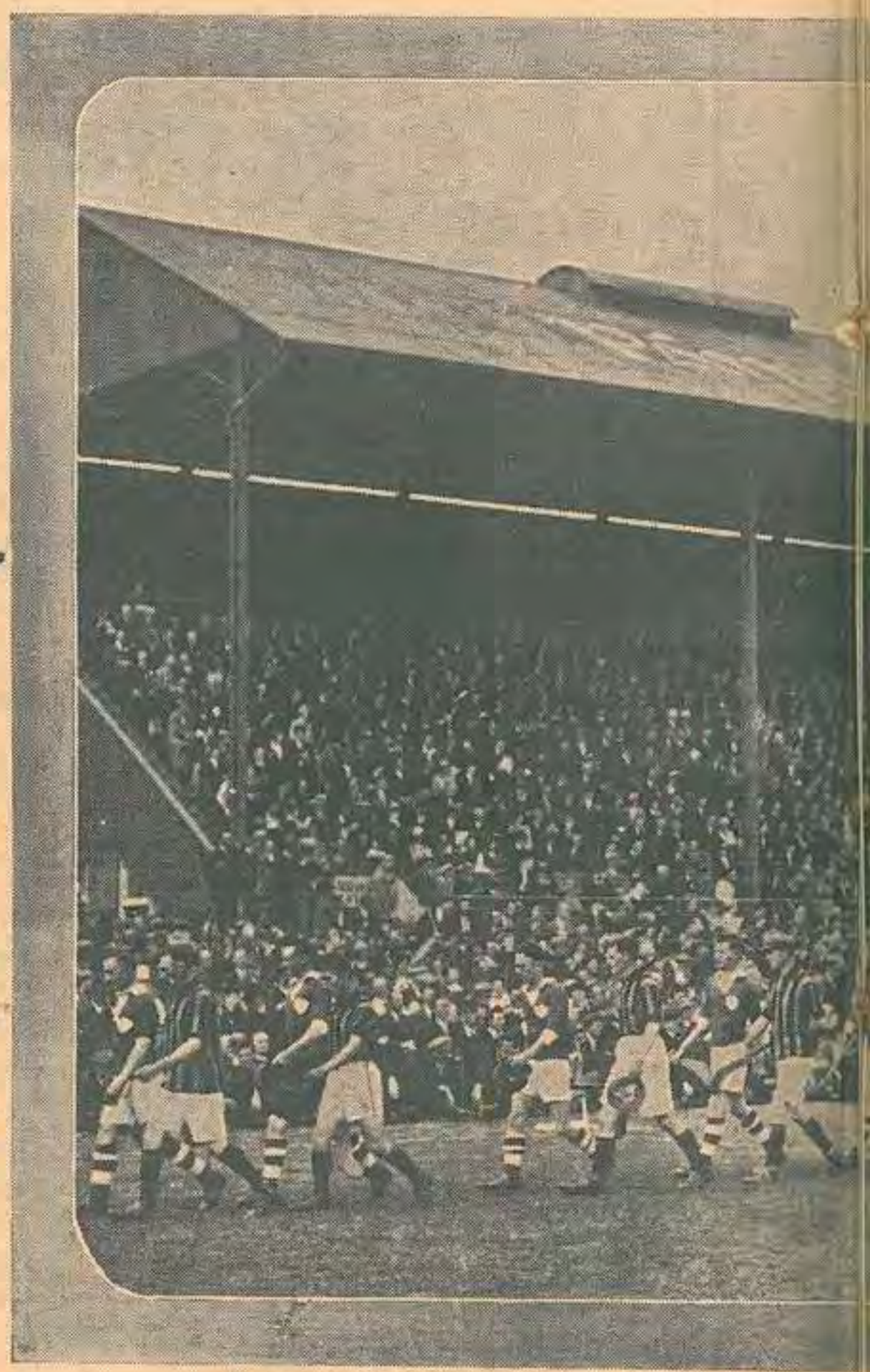


A PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSION OF CROKE PARK ON THE DAY

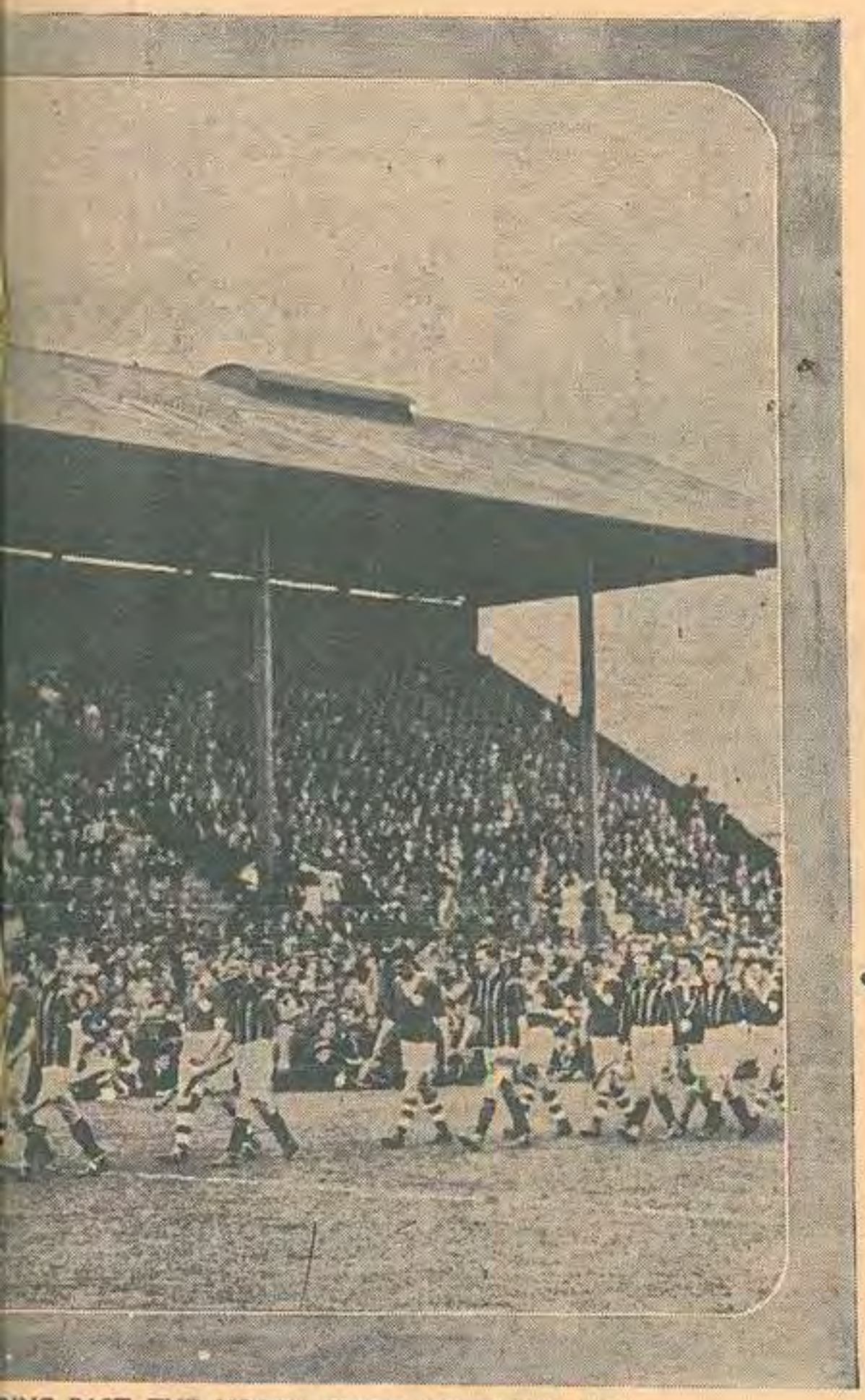
The Clash of the Ash.—Opponents in the 1933 Final (Kilkenny-Limerick) in an incident during a strenuous game.



KILKENNY (STRIPES) AND LIMERICK TEAMS PARA

THE 1933 ALL-IRELAND FINALS

OF THE FOOTBALL FINAL WHEN CAVAN DEFEATED GALWAY



DING PAST THE HOGAN STAND AT CROKE PARK.

Galway defenders strive in vain to reach the ball when Cavan score a point.

WITH THE IRISH TEAM THAT VISITED THE U.S.A.

THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN INVASION

In 1888 the G.A.A. sent a team of athletes and hurlers to the United States.

The story of what has come to be known as "The American Invasion" is told in the accompanying article.

A STRUGGLE AGAINST MANY DIFFICULTIES

ALTHOUGH the idea of sending athletic and hurling teams to America had been frequently discussed during 1887, it was at a meeting of the Central Council at Limerick Junction on the 6th July, 1888, that the project was definitely decided on.

Mr. Maurice Davin, who had been re-elected President at the Convention for the re-constitution of the Association at Thurles in Jan., 1888, took a very active part in the project, being ably assisted by Mr. R. J. Frewen, treasurer, and Mr. [illegible]n Prendergast, hon. sec., Clonmel.

The idea had the wholehearted support of both the Most Rev. Dr. Croke and Mr. Michael Davitt. Several communications of an encouraging nature were received from prominent Irishmen in America promising the project every support.

The idea of Mr. Davin and those associated with him was to bring the best available athletes in Ireland in competition with the American representatives, and also to give exhibitions of hurling by two first-class teams in the chief cities of United States, in the hope that branches of G.A.A would be formed there, and that international contests in hurling as well as athletics would take place in the future.

SELECTION OF TEAM.

The next step was the selection of the athletes, and these included J. S. Mitchell (Emly) and Dr. J. C. Daly (Borrisokane), Wm. Real (Pallasgreen), and T. O'Donnell (Carrick-on-Suir) for the hammer and weights; Pat Davin, D. Shanahan, J. M'Carthy, M. and J. Connery, P. Looney, T. J. O'Mahony (then known as the Roscarbery Steam Engine), P. Keohan, T. Barry, T. M O'Connor, W. Phibbs, D. Power, J. Mooney, and W. M'Carthy. In addition, thirty well-known hurlers were selected.

The athletes were selected chiefly from the South, and, while strong in weight-putters and jumpers, the sprinters and distance runners were not up to a high standard. It must be stated that at the time the I.A.A.A. were going strong in and around Dublin, and claimed the best performances in the sprints, while Tommy Conneff, our one and four miles champion, whose presence would have added much strength to the team, had left for New York earlier in the year, and was at the time of our arrival there a member of the Manhattan Athletic Club.

When the "invaders" were brought together in Dublin the Angel Hotel was their headquarters, and the managers decided, in order to raise funds, to give exhibitions at several centres during the week previous to their departure, which had been fixed for Sunday, 16th September. Displays were given at Dun Laoghaire Wexford, Dundalk, Tullamore, Kilkenny, Thurles, and Cork. The games met with indifferent support, and the financial results were most disappointing to the promoters.

Having made arrangements with Mr. Maurice Davin when in Dublin to accompany the teams to America, I joined them at their headquarters, the Italian Hotel, Warren Place, Cork, owned by Mr. O'Keeffe, on the eve of their departure. This brought the full strength of the party to 50, as the Rev. Father J. Concannan (Tullamore) accompanied the team as chaplain, having been granted special powers by his Bishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Nulty, Bishop of Meath.

THE VOYAGE.

We left Cobh on the Guion liner, Wisconsin, my cabin companions being Dr. J G. Daly, the well-known weight putter; Mr. Thos. Harrington, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, and Mr. J. J. Cullen, record secretary, Dun Laoghaire. During the voyage, which was practically uneventful, Father Concannon presented championship medals to a number of the party, Jem Mitchell

receiving five for the 16lb hammer, 56lb, 14lb, and 7lb weights and the 16lb shot. A meeting of the hurlers was held, when captains were selected and teams picked. The captains were Tom O'Grady (Moycarkey) and R. P. Sutton (Dublin Mets.). The following are the names of the players:—J. McEvoy, J. Coughlan, J. Furlong, J. Royce, P. Meleady, Jas. Dunne, J. O'Rourke, P. Minnogue, P. J. Molohan, J. Stapleton, T. Ryan, P. Ryan, J. Cordial, J. O'Brien, J. Hayes, J. Grace, J. Fitzgibbon, J. Nolan, M. Hickey, M. Curran, D. Godfrey, F. Coughlan, P. Fox,. In addition to those named several of the athletes also took part in the hurling games.

On our arrival in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 25, the vessel was immediately boarded by Mr. John Cullinane, who had been sent out as agent in advance. Every Irish Society in New York was represented on the pier, as also were several well-known athletes, including T. P. Conneff, John Purcell, and W. J. M. Barry (Jumbo), late Queen's College, Cork, all of whom extended a hearty welcome to the "Invaders."

We soon heard all about the split between the New York and the Manhattan Athletic Clubs, as deputations from both lost little time in coming to interview Mr. Davin and those associated with him as to which side would have his support. Mr. Davin decided to throw in his lot with the Manhattan Club, and on the following day it was announced that the team's first display would be given on Saturday, the 29th September, on the Manhattan Athletic Club grounds, New York.

THE FIRST DISPLAY.

On Saturday a programme of athletic events, in which only our athletes took part, was followed by the hurling contest, which, considering the conditions of the ground, was very good. There were only about 1,500 spectators present, but they thoroughly enjoyed the hurling, which proved a right good contest, lasting 40 minutes.

On Monday, October 1, the teams gave their second athletic and hurling exhibitions at Brooklyn, but again the attendance was small, only about 600 spectators being present. On the conclusion of the games all headed for Pier 49, where we boarded the steamer for Providence. The trip was most enjoyable, going through Long Island Sound and Hell Gate. We reached Providence at 5.30, and immediately entrained for Boston, arriving shortly after 7 o'clock.

The sports postponed from Tuesday were brought off to-day (October 4) at Beacon Park, a trotting and athletic ground two or three miles outside the city, and were attended by about 5,000 spectators. The athletic events aroused keen competition, and were splendidly contested. All the events were scratch, and, although pitted against some good local runners, the members of the Invasion team took practically all the honours. Pat Davin won the hurdles, W. Phibbs the mile, O'Mahony the 440, and Jas. Mitchell the hammer and Dr. Daly the 56lb weight with a throw of 26ft. 10ins., beating the American record by over 3 inches. The hurling match which followed proved most interesting and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large gathering present.

The early portion of the next day was spent at Beacon Park, as some half-dozen events which were not decided on Thursday had to be gone through. There were only about 300 spectators present.

During the week exhibitions were given in Providence, Lowell, and Trenton, but, owing to the unfavourable weather which prevailed, the attendances at each venue was not up to expectations. I returned to New York for the American Athletic Championships on the 13th October, and there met all my old friends. We had representatives practically in every event. How the visiting team fared can be judged by the following results:—100 Yards and 220 Yards, F. Westing; 440, T. J. O'Mahony (53 secs.); 880, J. W. Moffatt; 1 Mile and 5 Miles, T. P. Conneff; 220 Hurdles, A. F. Copeland; High Jump, T. O'Connor (5ft. 9½ins.); J. S. Mitchell won the 56lb, though F. L. Lambrecht beat him in the throw of the 16lb hammer. The Irishman beat him in a latter competition, a performance which he followed up by winning the championship in eight successive years. Considering the strength of the opposition and the changed conditions, the team did well.

The hurling teams were again got together, and visits were paid to Yonkers, Newark, Patterson, and Philadelphia, the most successful being in the latter city, where a fairly good crowd witnessed the sport. Jas. Mitchell was the star performer here, and he made records with both the 16lb hammer and 56lb weight. At about this time Mr. Pat Davin, who had put up some fine performances in the various competitions, issued a challenge for an all-round competition, but failed to get a

MR. "JOE" WHELAN.

Day Overseer, Independent Newspapers, the writer of this article, who accompanied the "Invasion" team to the United States.

response. It may be mentioned that previous to leaving Ireland Mr. Davin proved successful in an all-round athletic championship at Ballsbridge grounds on the 9th July, 1888, beating the well-known George R. Gray, New York Athletic Club, by 30 points to 25. Gray at this time was a splendid athlete.

On the last Saturday night of the team's stay in New York a most successful athletic meeting was held in the Madison Square Garden. It was a wooden track, 220 yards in circumference. The contests, owing to the athletic dispute, were practically between the "Invasion" team and the members of the Manhattan Athletic Club. There was a large crowd present, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed, the winners in each case being loudly cheered. Our successes were:—High Jump, T. M. O'Connor; 440 Yards, T. J. O'Mahony; Slinging 56lb weight, J. S. Mitchell. T. Conneff won the One and Five Miles races.

Of those who left Cobh for the United States about twenty remained in America. They included J. S. Mitchell, W. and J. M'Carthy, J. and M. Connery, J. M'Evoy, J. Royce, P. Molahan, J. Bourke, P. Mannix, F. Furlong, P. O'Donnell, J. Mooney, P. Meleady, J. Dunne, C. Coughlan, J. J. Cullen, and R. Downey. Father Concannon and Dr. Daly remained to visit friends, but subsequently returned to Ireland. The remaining thirty boarded the City of Rome and sailed for Ireland on Hallowe'en Night, October, 1888, after spending over five weeks in the United States.

Although the adventure did not turn out a financial success Mr. Davin and those associated with him could not be blamed on this score. The weather was bad for weeks, the athletic dispute was going on, they were in a foreign coun-

The late Mr. John Cullinane, who was advance agent of the "Invasion" team. He was prominently identified with the G.A.A., and became M.P. for a constituency in his native Tipperary.

try, surrounded for the most part by strangers, who, it must be said, failed to a great extent to keep up to the promises they made. The expenses entailed in travelling about with a combination of between 40 and 50 men for over a month must also be considered.

The "Invasion" certainly laid the foundation of the Association in America, and when the present strength of the G.A.A. in the United States is taken into consideration, as also the number of teams that have visited America in recent years, the conclusion must be drawn that the "Invasion" fulfilled a good portion of its mission.

Had the other cities of the States supported the games as the residents of Boston did, it would have been a far different story. As is well known, Mr. Michael Davitt came to the assistance of the promoters, and made the deficit good, which proved a satisfactory conclusion to what was undoubtedly a gigantic enterprise at the time.

A fact not generally known in connection with Mr. Davitt's action in clearing off the £400 due by the promoters of the "Invasion" is that when a deputation from the Central Council waited on him some time later he told them that the money with which he cleared off the debt had been subscribed and given to him for national purposes and that he considered that he had put the money to good use in wiping out the arrears occasioned by the visit.

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Junior and Minor Champions

JUNIOR FOOTBALL—Mayo—T. Grier (capt.) (Ballycastle), J. O'Gara (goal) (Ballaghadereen), J. Carney, H. O'Brien, B. Frazer, J. Cullen (Ballina Stephenites), T. Kelly, M. Rafferty (Newport), P. Laffey (Foxford), J. Diffley (Castlebar), P. O'Loughlin (Ballyvary), P. J. Coffey (Westport), T. Regan, P. Conboy (Charlestown), P. Collins (Lacken). Photographs and names of Kerry (the Minor Champions), on Page 71.

MINOR HURLING—Tipperary—C. Maher (capt.), J. Moloney (goal), J. Mooney (Thurles), A. Brennan (Clonoulty), M. Everard (Templetuohy), M. Bourke (Cashel), P. Duggan (Glengoole), P. Farrell (Boherlahan), J. Farrell (Fethard), M. Condon, M. Ryan (Moycarkey), J. Fletcher, T. Maher (Roscrea), P. O'Callaghan (Carrick), P. Fraser (Clonfert). T. O'Keeffe and P. Purcell (Moycarkey), who played through the Munster Championship and against Kilkenny in the semi-final, had entered St. Patrick's College, Thurles, before the final against Galway at Portumna.

JUNIOR HURLING—Tipperary—E. Eade (capt.), P. Mahony (goal) (Carrick "Swans"), J. Cooney, W. Roche, D. Roche, M. O'Toole (Carrick Davins), D. O'Gorman (Holycross), D. Murphy (Thurles), D. Looby, P. O'Keeffe (Boherlahan), W. Ryan (Borrisoleigh), J. Duggan (Glengoole), D. Gleeson (Nenagh), R. Hayes, J. Tynan (Moyglass).

The Old and The New

A hurling ball used nearly fifty years ago in a match between St. Finbarrs, Cork, and Holycross, Tipperary. It is photographed beside a modern ball, showing the great difference in size of the old and new leather. The old ball is a treasured souvenir owned by Mr. W. Macheasy, the well-known Cork sportsman, through whose courtesy we are enabled to reproduce it.

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FAMOUS FOOTBALL FINAL

MATCH PLAYED THREE TIMES

The most memorable of all the football championships was that for 1903, won in 1905 by Kerry, who defeated Kildare on a second replay of the final.

The game received a wonderful impetus as a result of these three great struggles, in which the play touched heights and aroused enthusiasm unknown before.

We give the names of the players who took part in this historic final as being of exceptional interest:—

Kerry—T. J. O'Gorman (capt.), J. O'Gorman, M. McCarthy, C. Healy, J. T. Fitzgerald, J. Buckley, D. Curran, A. Stack (Tralee), P. Dillon (goal), R. Fitzgerald, W. Lynch, J. Myers, D. McCarthy, D. Kissane (Killarney), R. Kirwan, D. Breen (Castleisland), E. O'Neill (Valentia).

Kildare—J. Rafferty (capt.) (Naas), J Fitzgerald (goal), J. Murray, M. Murray, M. Kennedy, J. Scott, M. Donnelly, F. Conlan, J. Gorman, M. Fitzgerald (Rosebery), W. Merriman, L. Cribbon, W. Losty, E. Kennedy, J. Wright, J. Dunne, W. Bracken (Slane).

The Kerry team included the late Austin Stack, one of the leaders in the Republican movement of later years, and the late Dick Fitzgerald, then a youth. Rody Kirwan was a Waterfordman, brother of Percy Kirwan (Kilmacthomas), a noted athlete.

F. ("Joyce") Conlon, who played for Kildare, helped his county to defeat Kerry in the 1905 final, and was still playing for Kildare when they defeated Galway in the 1919 final.

W. Myers, M O'Gorman, and M. McCarthy, who won the All-Ireland Minor championship with Kerry last year, are sons of players who took part in the 1903 final against Kildare—Jack Myers, J. O'Gorman, and Maurice McCarthy.

TEAMS OF 21, 17, AND 15

Teams originally consisted of 21 players aside.

* The first All-Ireland finals with teams of 17 aside ere those for the 1892 Championship..

The first All-Ireland final with teams of 17 aside were those for the 1892 Championship.

A Great Hurler

The late Sean Og Hanley, the famous Kilfinane hurler, a pen-picture of whose prowess appears on page 18.

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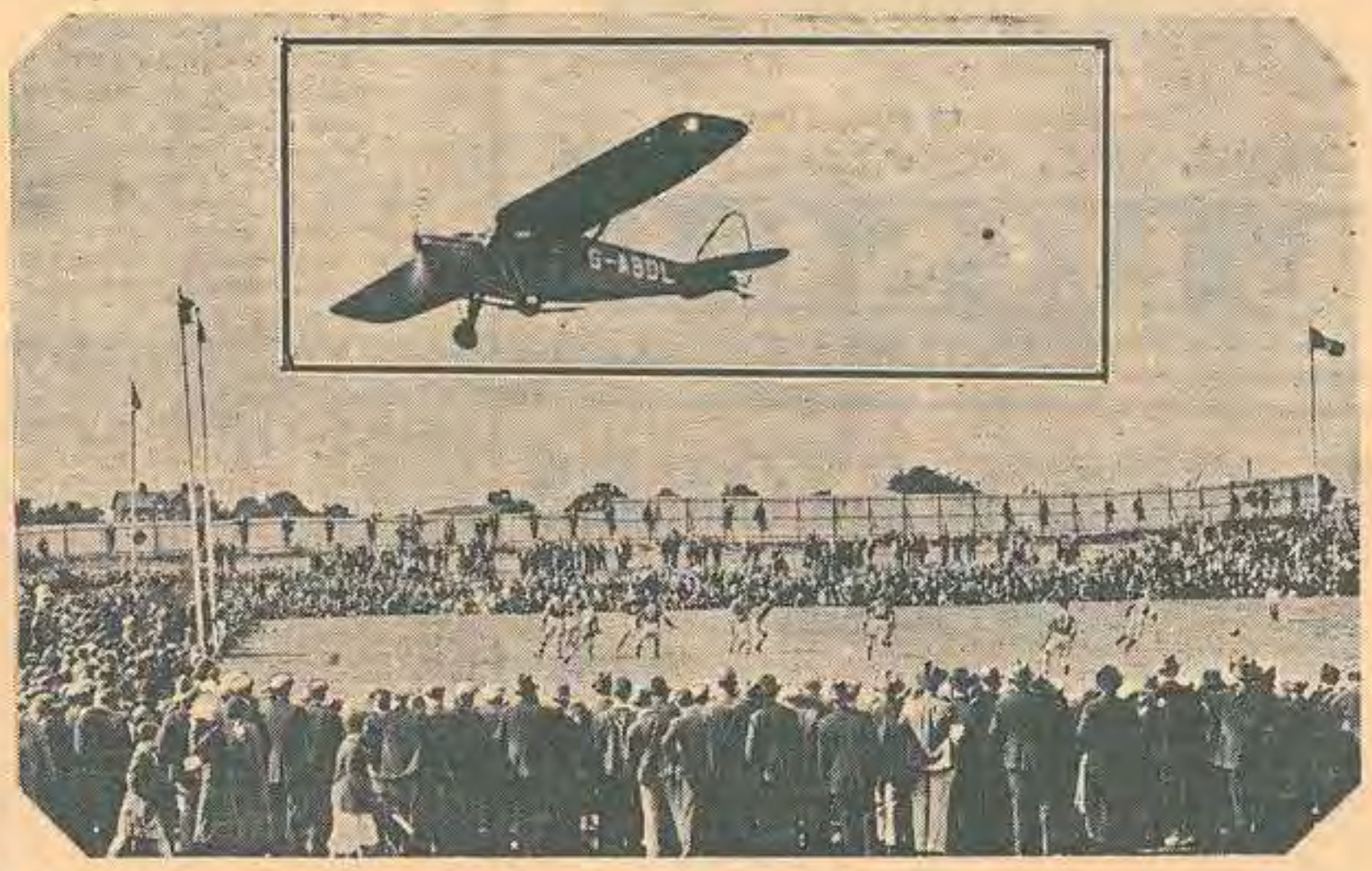

Play at the Kerry goal when they met Dublin at the opening of Cusack Park at Mullingar. The opening ceremony was performed by Most Rev. Dr. Mulvany, Bishop of Meath. The match was started by throwing in the ball from an aeroplane, as seen in the inset.

THE young Gael of 1934, accustomed to his grand stand or side-line seat, to the gigantic scoring board which saves him the trouble of using a pencil, to the numbered players, and all the other facilities associated with big games, may find it difficult to picture the conditions under which the early matches were played under the Gaelic Association.

The progress that has been made in the equipment of grounds is, perhaps, a more arresting measure of the development of the G.A.A. than figures of attendance or finance.

Away back in the 'eighties, the 'nineties, and even later, there were few sports fields as we know them now; and none was under Gaelic control. The pioneers played their matches on fields lent by generous sympathisers, usually with freshly-cut branches of trees for goalposts, with no lawn-mowers to check the growth of the grass, no stands, no sideline seats, no railings to divide players from spectators and, in most cases, no barrier but the dykes and ditches to keep out those unwilling to pay for their amusement. In a word, the field where the hardest battles were fought was just a field and no more.

To be sure there was here and there, in the larger towns and cities, a sports ground proper, though it would not stand the criticism of "Constant Reader" and "Pro Bono Publico" of our day.

It was not until about a quarter of a century ago that Gaels felt themselves strong enough to look about for parks and grounds of their own that would be worthy of themselves and their Association.

There were a few Gaels whose pitches, though private property, might be said to be in fact Gaelic grounds in the full sense. Frank Dineen's Jones's Road (now Croke Park), Dan Fraher's billiard-like pitch at Dungarvan, and Pat McGrath's sports field in Tipperary were probably the best known of these.

EARLY PIONEERS

The Gaels of Cork who acquired the Athletic Ground were amongst the early pioneers. So were the Gaels of Thurles who purchased the old Show Grounds to make it what it is to-day, one of the finest pitches in Ireland with almost unlimited possibilities of development since it is a pitch in the middle of a vast field.

It was, however, when the Association in 1913 acquired Croke Park as its own property and headquarters that the movement for the acquisition of Gaelic grounds on an ambitious scale really started. The sight of Croke Park set visiting Gaels asking themselves the question why every county should not have a Croke Park of its own on a more modest scale.

The Leinster Council was the real pioneer in this movement, with the Munster Council now running close on its heels. In Ulster and Connacht they have not yet the resources of the other provinces, but they are certainly doing as much as the means at their disposal permit.

HOW IT IS DONE.

The common plan is this. The local Gaels in important centres set about finding a suitable site. They do the preliminary work, select the grounds, and find a share of the capital. The provincial council then contributes portion of the necessary capital, taking all the ordinary business-like and legal precautions to ensure that the ownership is vested in reliable trustees and that the grounds will not be used for any purpose which does not commend itself to Gaelic ideals.

LEINSTER'S LEAD.

The balance sheets are the best index to this policy of acquiring suitable field accomomdation.

Last year the Leinster Council's assets included no less than £4,400 invested in county grounds, spread as follows:—

Drogheda	£600	Kilkenny ...	£600
Kildare	£600	Wexford ...	£500
Westmeath ...	£500	Offaly	£450
Laoighis	£400	Meath	£400
Dublin	£350		

In addition to this sum the Council had set aside a further £1,150 for investment as follows:—

Longford	£250	Wicklow ...	£200
Carlow	£200	Laoighis	£200
Dublin	£100	Offaly	£100
Meath	£100		

Portion of these latter allocations was earmarked for providing stands on grounds already acquired.

MUNSTER'S HEADWAY.

The Munster Council's investments exceeded £2,250, divided as follows:—

Limerick £1,031; Clonmel, £400; Davin Memorial Park, Carrick-on-Suir, £400;
Tralee, £200; Kilrush, £150;
Boherlahan £70.

In addition, it had been decided to invest £150 in Croom, and £400 in the Dick Fitzgerald Memorial Park, Killarney.

Moreover, members of the G.A.A. have been mainly responsible for securing the insertion of a clause in the Land Acts which enables the Land Commission to set aside in any parish a site for an athletic park or sports ground to be held by local trustees..

In most of these counties the Gaels have not yet achieved the full measure of their ambition, for the provision or improvement of stands and dressing-rooms and the erection of sloping banks for spectators will take many more years of hard work. But a sense of ownership gives enough courage to make light of these difficulties.

No doubt in the near future the Gaels of Munster will put their heads together with a view to assisting Connacht and Ulster to overcome the difficulties peculiar to those provinces.

The achievements of the G.A.A. in acquiring grounds on this scale are the more remarkable when it is remembered that the Gaelic pitch is far larger than that required for other games, and on the average demands about twice the area.

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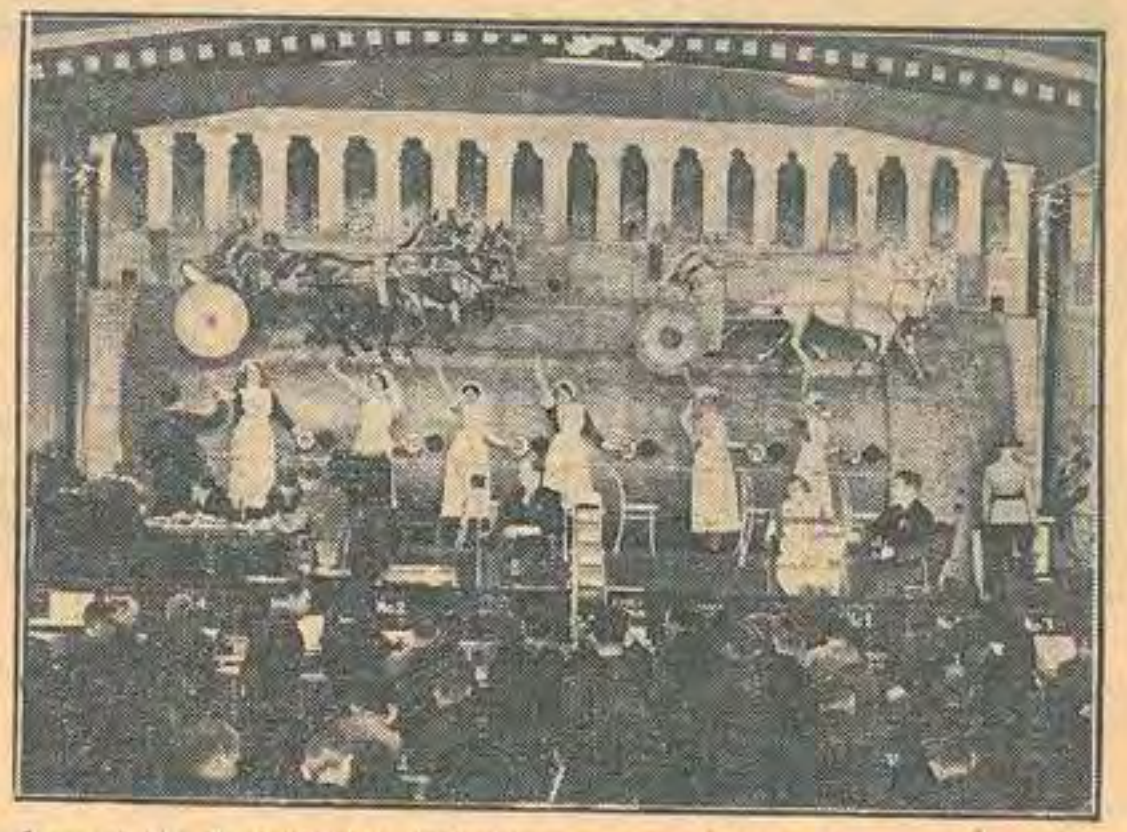
Since the Irish Hospital Sweeps started with the November Handicap of 1930 the above enormous total has been paid out in Prize Money to lucky people in all parts of the world. Subscriptions are received from the most remote corners of the earth and in a recent film there was displayed the currencies of 43 different countries received in one day by the Foreign Department of the Sweeps.

This wonderful success is clearly due to the scrupulously fair and open manner in which the Sweepstakes are conducted. The whole system is an outstanding example of perfect organisation. Every single counterfoil is separately acknowledged and the whole mixing and draw are conducted in public before representatives of the Press of the world and under supervision of the Chief of Police and Government approved auditors.



Scene at the Cambridgeshire 1933 Draw, showing Colonel Broy, Chief of Police, collecting counterfoils just drawn from Drum by the nurses.

Irish Hospitals have received OVER £6,000,000

Scene at the Mixing Machine showing girls in international period costumes putting counterfoils into machine.

Cambridgeshire, 1933. Street scene showing transport of counterfoils to scene of Draw. The huge horse represents the Horse of Troy.

The Hospitals have been raised from positions of debt and difficulty to a condition which has enabled them to settle their money troubles and devote large sums to improving their buildings, equipment, and service to the poor of the country. This, in its turn, has created a great deal of employment.

The Sweepstakes organisation itself is a huge industry employing a permanent staff of 2,000 well-paid people all the year round. Three times a year this number is increased as the rush period of each Sweepstake comes round. This increase has never been less than 1,200 additional employees, and has risen to a total staff of 4,300.

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A Directory (e.g., "Kelly's Manufacturers and Shippers of the World," Vol. 2, pages 1744-1772, in 1932 edition), which includes the Irish Free State, may be seen in any library.

The following counties are not part of the Irish Free State—Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh, and Londonderry.

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In front (from left) J. Quane, P. J. O'Keeffe (General Secretary), P, MacNamee. Second Row—Rev. J. McGaurin, S. Ryan (Solr.); Rev. J. O'Dea, V.P.; W. Clifford, V.P.; S. McCarthy, B.A., President; R. O'Keeffe, V.P.; P. Fearon, V.P.; T. F. Mulholland, P. Breen (Trustees); J. J. Sheehy. Back Row—J. F. O'Grady, F. McGovern, S. Cloonan, T. Kilcoyne, S. Gibbons, T.D.; B. Fay, T. Coyle, P. Whelan, P. McDonnell.

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Boys' leather lined Rivetted Boots with half tips. Strongly made and finished - hard wear. Sizes 2 to 5, 9/11; 11 to 1, 6/11; 7 to 10 ..... **4/11**

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Children's Patent Ankle Strap Shoes in red, blue, and fawn. Sizes 3 to 6 Better quality, 3/6. **2/6**

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—Sean-aṁrán.

AN gall úd a ḃí ag féaċaint fadó ar ċluiċe iomána i gCo. an Ċláir agus adubairt naċ fuláir nó b'é "prehistoric golf" a ḃí ann, ba ḟurasa é a tuigsint, gan aon agó. Nára slán an comórtas! Is deacair gaol ar biṫ d'feicsint insan dá ċluiċe mar imirtear indiu iad, agus ní móide go raiḃ baint ar doman aca le n-a ċéile aon lá riaṁ.

Na tuairiscí atá againn ó ré na bFiann ní mór an méid eolais atá le fagáil ionnta i dtaoḃ niṫe mór-ṫábaċta—faid is leiṫead an ḃláir iomána, an déanaṁ a ḃíoḋ ar an gcamán féin, an méad a ḃíoḋ 'san liaṫróidín, an aoirde is an leiṫead a ḃíoḋ insan ḃoga cúil, an líon a ḃíoḋ ar gaċ fuirinn, ⁊rl., ⁊rl.

Ní dóċa go raiḃ claiḋe ná teóra ná riomċan ar biṫ le faiċċe na himearṫa insan ré úd, agus ní heól dúinn ná go mbeirtiḋe an iomaḋ-caċt ó "páirc" go "páirc." Na Fora, láiṁ le Cill Áirne, ina raiḃ an t-árd-ċluiċe sin atá luaiḋte i dTóruiġeaċt Ḋiarmuda is Ġráinne, measaim go mbeaḋ sliġe ionnta i gcóir daċad cluiċe dá sórt. Agus ó's rud é ná bíoḋ "páirc" aca, is follus ná bíoḋ aon "geata" aca aċt ċoṁ beag!

An Liaṫróidín.

Ní fuláir nó is rud ana-ḃeag a ḃíoḋ insan liaṫróidín, mar do ċuala ó ṡeanċaiḋe fadó i dtaoḃ cluiċe iomána dá raiḃ ag an bFéinn, gur caiṫeaḋ stad den imirt tré ċaill-eaṁaint na liaṫróide, agus i gcionn aḃfad go bfuaireaḋar í i bféasóig duine de sna báireóirí! Is cosṁail, áṁṫaċ, ná raiḃ sa méid sin aċt scéilín grinn.

Do réir deallraiṁ ní ḃíoḋ an camán féin in aon gaoḃar do ḃeiṫ ċoṁ mór le camán an lae indiu. B'iné tuairim na sean-fonndóirí leaṫ-ċéad bliain ó soin, nuair ṫáinig aṫ-fás ar an gcluiċe in Éirinn. An ḃoga nó na boganna a ḃíoḋ aca, is deacair a ráḋ cad é an cómar a ḃíoḋ ionnta, aċt ní dóċa go raḃadar ċoṁ leaṫan ná ċoṁ árd le cuailli na haimsire seo.

Is cosṁail go mbíoḋ forraċ nó forraċán, nó altán éigin aca ċun radarc maiṫ d'fagáil ar an gcluiċe; tá an Forraċ Mór i gCo. Ċilldara, aċt is dall-é ná feaca riaṁ nó beaḋ fios agam an bfuil an áit oireaṁnaċ do luċt breaṫnuiġṫe cluiċí.

Trí ċéad bliain ó soin is mó iarraċt a rinne gaill Ċorcaiġe ċum deire a ċur le himirt iomána ar ṡráideanna na caṫraċ san: trí sna cianta anuas. níor éirig leó stad a ċur air, agus tá an sean-nós dá ċleaċtaḋ fós ar ṡráideannaiḃ is ar ḃóiṫriḃ na caṫraċ céadna, agus ar ḃóiṫriḃ an Ċontae ċoṁ maiṫ, ag garsúnaiḃ. I gcaṫraċaiḃ agus i mbailtiḃ móra eile isé an peil a ċífá ar siuḃal ag an aosóg, aċt cois Laoi ní feicfá coiḋċe aċt an camáinín agus liaṫróidín beag.

Insan oċtṁaḋ céad déag do ḃíoḋ comórtaisí iomána go minic idir ḟoirniḃ ó ṁalairt ċonntaeṫe, agus ḃí muinntir Ċilldara agus muinntir na Míḋe ċoṁ oilte ar an gcamán le hiomaċóirí ó aon taoḃ eile den tír. Ba ġnáṫaċ árd-ġeall airgid a ḃeiṫ sa scéal, agus geóḃṫaiḋe a lán tuairiscí ar ḃaḃtaí den ċineál san aċt iad do ċuardaċ ar ṗáipéaraiḃ nuaḋaċta na haimsire sin.

I nGleann an Áir.

Féaċ an cur-síos atá ag an Aṫair Ṗádraig Ó Sioċċáin, Canónaċ, i "nGleann an Áir," ar ċluiċe den tsórt san; agus tá amrán ag Seán na Ráiṫíneaċ ar an imirt sin a ṫárla i mbl. a 1741 idir gairsiḋiġ Conntae Ṫiobrad Árann (sé sin Donnċaḋ Mac Craiṫ) agus fuireann ó Ġleann na gCloċ (fé ṫreóir Cornel de Barra ó Lios na gCarr, láiṁ le Ráṫ Ċormaic) i gCo. Ċorcaiġe. Do ḃí an dream ón dtaoḃ ṫuaiḋ á ṁaoiḋeaṁ gur aca féin a ḃí an ḃuaḋ, agus ḃí raḃcán cumṫa agá bfiliḃ ar an scéal. Ní misde cuid de líntiḃ Ṡeáin a ċur annso:

Níor ċuibe dom gasra tarraing ón áird a dtuaiḋ
Maoiḋeaṁ a ngaisce mar ċantar le daiṁ go buan;
'S cén ċruinn a scaiṫeaṁ ag freagairt do ṫáċain sluaiġ
Do scríoḃ na Barraiġ ar barra 'san mbáire uaiḃ.

Uaiḃ do sciobaḋ le cumas gan ṫlaon ar biṫ
Le buaḋ gaċ builte dár imir ár laoċra liḃ;
'S cén b'uaiḃreaċ músc fé ṫuitim an scéil mar sin,
In uaċtar, tuigiḋ, gur minic in éaċtaiḃ sinn.

. . . .

Diḃ ní measaim gur masla ná náire fós
I dtír ná i dtalaṁ go ndeaċaiḋ an áit seo róṁaiḃ,
I gcnoiḋe 's i gceannas, in acṁainn, i gcáil 's i gcló;
'S dá ḃrí sin, feasta ná tagaiḋ ċum láiṫreaċ leó.

Buig an cúrsa má's fonn liḃ do ṫagairt go cóir
Ḃí an súgraḋ go clúmail, is fanaḋ go fóill.
An Rí Fionn is a ċongnaṁ dá dtagaḋ 'n-a gcoṁair
Is trí cúisce beaḋ cúinseaċ 'ná Barraiġ na slóġ.

. . . .

Iarraċt ċiallṁar scuiḋéarṫa a ċum Seán ar an gcár—níl aon focal de ċromaiḃeaċt ann ar fuireann Ṫiobrad Árann.

Is minic a ḃíoḋ tagairt ag filiḃ do gairce ar an gcamán nuair éagaḋ óig-ḟear. mar sompla féaċ an líne sin ag Éamonn de bFál ar Liam Ruaḋ Mac Coitir:

"Nó an camán a ċompán ní léir dam."

Cluiċe i Lonndain.

Bíoḋ gur beag trácṫ a ḃí ar iománaiḋeaċt i riṫ an ré sceór bliain i ndiaiḋ lár an oċtṁaḋ aoise déag, níor dearmadaḋ in éan-ċor an cluiċe i gcuid den tír, agus is cosṁail gur déine a leanaḋ den sórt sa Ṁuṁain 'ná i mball ar biṫ eile, munab ionann is Cill Ċainniġ agus an Conntae Riaḃaċ (Loċ Garman). Bíos féin ag caint le daoine a ḃí ar an saoġal roiṁ bliain a 1800, agus le mór-ċuid a rugaḋ idir san agus 1820, agus ḃí a lán le ráḋ aca i dtaoḃ cluiċí iomána insa ċeanntar.

Do léiġtear ċoṁ maiṫ ar ċluiċí a ḃíoḋ ar siuḃal ag Éireannaiġ i gCaṫair Lonndain: is é an ball ina mbídís ag imirt 'ná insna páirceanna a ḃíoḋ an uair sin ar ċúlaiḃ an Britiṡ Museum.

Do ċloisinn scéalta á insint i nGaeḋilg ag na sean-daoine agus gan ionnam an uair sin aċt páiste, agus do ḃíoḋ an scéalaiḋe deiṁniteaċ go mbíoḋ spiridí na ndeiġ-iománaiṫe ag caḃruġaḋ le n-a sean-ċáirdiḃ insan ċluiċe—seaḋ agus do ċloisinn ainmneaċa na marḃ san dá luaḋ aca, ina nduine is ina nduine.

Nuair a ḃíomair ar scoil in ár bfíor-óige do ḃíoḋ cineál iomána againn in am sosraiḋ; ḃíoḋ camáinín ag gaċ duine againn, camáinín ná ḃíoḋ ann aċt croiḋe tuir aitinn agus cos ann, nó píosa de géiġ adṁaid agus cos i gceann de; agus mar liaṫróidín is cuiṁin liom gurab é rud a ḃíoḋ againn ná sceaċ-úta go dtugaimís "crúimpín" air: dá bfaġṫá buill: de, ṫáinisre ag ráḋ leat ná déanfá dearmad de go ceann aḃfad!

Is maiṫ is cuiṁin liom nuair a bunuiġeaḋ an Cumann Lúṫ-Ċleas Gaeḋeal. Go dtí san níor leagas féin súil riaṁ ar ċamán baire—sin é ṫugaḋ na seandaoine ar an sórt camáin atá againn indiu. Ba mór é suim na sean in aiṫḃeóḋant an ċluiċe, agus aon duine aca a ḃeireaḋ ar ċamán ċum poc a ḃualaḋ, ṫugaimís fé ndeara go gcuireaḋ sé dronn air féin, agus ba ḋóiġ leat go mbeaḋ an camán aḃfad Éireann ró-ḟada ḋó.

Ní ḋóiġ liom go mbíoḋ an labaireaċt céadna in iarraċtaiḃ iománaiṫe na sean-aimsire agus atá againn-ne indiu, agus ċloisinn na seandaoine sin ag ráḋ an focal úd "deiriġ." ionnas gur ḋóiġ leat ná buailidís an liaṫróid aċt le haon taoḃ aṁáin den ċamán. Is aindeis a ḃeaḋ an scéal againn indiu dá mbeaḋ an riaġail sin i bfeiḋm orainn.

Do b'é mo ḃaraṁail féin riaṁ, agus is é indiu, ná raiḃ éin-ḃreiṫ ag iománaiṫe ar biṫ san tsean-aimsir—éan-ṫráṫ de—ar ṫréire ná ar ċlisteaċt ná ar lúṫṁaireaċt ná ar ḟearaṁaċt na bfuireann a ṫagann ar Ṗáirc Cróc i mBaile Áṫ Cliaṫ in iomaiḋ i gcoṁair curaḋ-ṁír na hÉireann gaċ bliain. Cúpla bliain ó soin, nuair do b'éigean do ṁuinntir Ċorcaiġe agus do ṁuinntir Ċill Ċainniġ teaċt an trí huaire i ndiaiḋ a ċéile insan iomaiḋ céadna, sinné adubairt féin le sna cáirdiḃ a ḃí im ṫeannta gaċ Domnaċ díoḃ—"Do ḃuaḋfaidís seo ar Ḟionn Mac Cumaill agus ar a ṡluiġtiḃ go léir."

Ba mór an trua é nár saoġluiġeaḋ Míċeál Cíosóg ċun na mór-ċluiċí sin d'feicsint, aċt ḃí sé sásta le n-a ḃfeaca sé le n-a linn. Do ḃí sean-aiṫne agam air, agus níor labramair riaṁ le n-a ċéile aċt an Gaeḋilg, agus is aige a ḃ. sí—go glan agus go líomṫa. B'éidir go raiḃ a spiorad i láṫair ar na comórtasaiḃ móra úd, dála na sean againn-ne!

Fad saoġail, sé maise, go raiḃ ag an gCumann Lúṫ-Ċleas Gaeḋeal!

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IRISHWOMEN'S NATIONAL GAME

CAMOGUIDHEACHT: A THIRTY YEARS' REVIEW

THIRTY years ago Irishwomen came together to form an game that would be in accord association to popularise a with the national aspiration of the women of Irish Ireland. There was at that time no native game that Gaelic-minded women could play. It was no easy task to set on foot a game that Irishwomen could play without encountering criticism from various quarters. Prejudice was strong, and it required great moral courage for a girl to carry a camog.

However, a start was made, and when one considers that the dresses of the period were only six inches from the ground one can imagine how awkward it was for players to run after a ball with the speed required in camogie

Practice games were held in the Phoenix Park at first, be it admitted, in a corner well away from the view of the general public.

THE FIRST MATCH.

After some weeks the first match was played in Navan. It was looked upon as a "novelty," but pleased the spectators. There was a good attendance, an Aeridheacht being held on the same occasion.

Some of the young and enthusiastic members of the Gaelic League and G.A.A. helped to spread the light. More clubs were formed. The Keatings, Cuchullians, Lucan Sarsfields, Dundrum Volunteers, and a few others started a League.

Prof. Tadg O'Donoghue, the well-known Gaelic poet, gave the game its name—Camoguidheacht.

It was, and is, of course, a modified form of hurling, the ground being much shorter and the number of players only twelve aside.

The game at first did not make much headway, even in Dublin City, and though a few games were played at the great Gaelic League festivals of the time, Camogie was not taken up in many parts of the country. Indeed, strong objection was taken to its being introduced into the schools and colleges.

Muckross College, however, had a team, and later the Ursuline Convent, Thurles.

In 1906 a championship match was played in which Cuchullians and Dundrum Volunteers figured.

A few years later the game practically died out and, in fact, were it not for the Croke Gaelic Club it would not have survived until to-day.

A GREAT CLUB.

This club, from 1906, never allowed the game to die out, and a Camogie team was always maintained in competition with the clubs. Kevins, O'Tooles, Clann Colmcille, St. Margarets and some others became interested, and in 1910 a move was made to start a League competition. This was not, however, found practicable, and interest was kept alive only by games played by teams of selected players at local Aeridheachtanna, which were then a popular feature of the Irish national propaganda and entertainments.

Usually a team from North Dublin and another selected from South Dublin brought together a big crowd.

An attempt was made in places like Dundalk, Leix, Wexford, London and other centres to play the game. In 1912 Dublin played Louth at Jones's Road (now Croke Park) and a fine game was witnessed.

Dublin still retained its hold on the game, and a League was again established. This time moderate success was achieved, and encouraged by this success the sponsors—mostly members of the Croke Club—kept at the uphill work.

As a result of a number of letters in newspapers, a general meeting was held in 1912, and Lady Fingall was invited to take the chair, but she was unable to attend. Mrs. Hamilton kindly consented to preside. Both ladies belonged to the United Irishwomen's Association, and were anxious to promote the game in various parts of the country. Maire de Buitleir (the late Mrs. O'Nowlan) and others sent encouraging letters. Mrs. Lett, of Wexford, also interested herself in the game. Cait Ni Donnchadha, a sister of "Torna," acted as organiser. The teams represented included Ard Craobh, Keatings, Columcille, St. Margarets, Crokes, Inghinidhena-h-Eireann, Drumcondra Kevins, Emmet choir, and Fianna. It was not considered advisable to proceed with a competition League, but inter-club games for practices were sanctioned.

The ensuing years did not bring much progress, and the world war, along with our own affairs from 1916 to 1922, kept organisation from making anything like rapid strides.

In 1922 a ground was secured in the Phoenix Park, and regular games were played here as well as at University Park, Croydon Park, Croke Park, and at the Thatch, Drumcondra.

As time went on, and with a determined effort to make the game popular, success seemed to be assured. Year after year brought more teams into being, and Wicklow, Wexford, Meath, and other counties had their regular Leagues.

Dublin did better still, and the number of teams increased so rapidly that divisions had to be formed.

The Junior contests were full of interest. Dominican College (Eccles St.), as well as the University Colleges of Cork, Galway, and Dublin, had teams, and played each year for the Ashbourne Cup.

In 1928 the Association took part in 14 Tailteann games, and Galway put up a good fight against Louth and Dublin.

The League system was then introduced, and this had the effect of broadening the interest in country districts.

Dublin made rapid progress, and Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Schools and College Leagues were formed

The provinces awoke, and in the Tailteann Games of 1932 Tipperary, representing Munster, sent a team. Dublin, with Louth, represented Leinster, while Galway did duty for Connacht.

Great interest was manifested in the games and it may be said that from that time the game took a hold in all parts of the country. Queen's University (Belfast) sent a team in 1934 to play for the first time in the Ashbourne Cup games.

Teams are now to be found in all counties, and the very successful Congress held in Dublin in February, 1934, recorded a splendid entry of affiliated teams.

Provincial Councils are now being formed, and the number of teams is growing weekly.

The following will be a representative list from the provinces:—

Ulster—Antrim, 24; Derry, 10; Fermanagh, 10; Donegal, 12; Tyrone, 10; Armagh, 9; Cavan, 18.

Munster—Cork, 26; Limerick, 30; Tipperary, 30; Clare, 5; Waterford, 9; Kerry, 7.

Connacht—Galway, 10; Mayo, 10; Roscommon, 5; Leitrim, 3; Sligo, 6.

Leinster—Dublin, 80; Meath, 27; Kilkenny, 15; Wexford, 8; Wicklow, 7; Kildare, 16; Leix, 15; Westmeath, 14; Louth, 4.

Though not in association with the G.A.A. by way of affiliation, many individual members of that Association help to form teams and referee matches.

The Association is at present reaping the rich reward of a strenuous and uphill fight, and the present officers have done much to bring it to such a state of perfection. The future of camogie is assured.

EIRE OG.

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WHEN SLIGO CONQUERED TIPPERARY

HER THREE EFFORTS TO REACH A FINAL

THE year 1923 saw Sligo perform what was, perhaps, its finest feat in the All-Ireland football championships. The year before that the Tipperary footballers, then a magnificent combination of dash and skill, had won an All-Ireland championship after a great battle with Dublin.

In 1923 the Tipperarymen were again in the All-Ireland semi-final with almost the same team. The Connacht championships had not been completed, and the Sligomen were nominated to represent the West against Tipperary at Croke Park on September 9, 1923. Playing dazzling football, Sligo beat Tipperary in a great finish, and were at once counted by many as favourites for the final. In the interval, however, Sligo was beaten by Galway in the Connacht final, and Galway subsequently went down before Dublin in the final by 6 points to 4.

That, however, was not Sligo's best year in football In 1928 the county achieved its ambition when it won the Connacht senior football championship for the first time on record, and capped that victory by adding the same year's Connacht junior title.

The seniors failed, however, at the next fence: when playing Cavan in the All-Ireland semi-final on Cavan's own ground they were beaten by 11 points to 4. The juniors were equally unfortunate, being beaten by Louth in the semi-final.

But Sligo will yet put its name on a cup or two, and perhaps sooner than many think.

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FIRST ULSTER COUNTY TO BEAT KERRY

ANTRIM

Chairman—Mr. H. Diamond,

Secretary—Mr. J. McKeown, 29 Rockville St., Belfast.

Colours—Saffron.

ON an undersized Association football pitch in Falls Public Park, Belfast, with Association goalposts, and tree-branches for side point-posts, the first final of the Antrim Hurling Championship was played in 1901.

The last hurling final played in Belfast was at Corrigan Park on a full-sized pitch with proper goal and point posts and goal nets, well-equipped pavilions for the players, and with covered accommodation for 1,000 persons to sit in comfort.

This contrast marks the advance of the G.A.A. in Belfast, the hub of the organisation in Antrim. The period in between was replete with colourful history, much of which cannot be tabulated here because of the confiscation and destruction of official records

FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP.

After a fitful start by clubs named Divis Rangers and Red Branch, and a partial failure to establish the G.A.A. in Antrim, a definite move to organise on a solid basis was inaugurated by Gaelic League branches in 1899. A Hurling League, composed of Tir na n-Oge, Brian Oge, Mitchels, and Gaels, was formed, and in 1901 a County Championship was started and won by Brian Oge in Falls Park.

The officials controlling this competition were:—Messrs. J. Kelly, Chairman; D. O'Brien, Secretary; and J. Murphy, Treasurer.

The following held office in the order given:—

Chairmen—Messrs. J. Kelly (R.I.P.), G. Martin, P. Moore, M. Kearney, M. Reid (R.I.P.), D Dempsey, P. Cleary (R.I.P.), J. Johnston, M. Harvey, J. Colum, P. McNamee, and H. Desmond.

Secretaries—Messrs. D. O'Brien, C. McCombs, J. McEntee, D. Magill (R.I.P.), W. Gilmore, J. Darby (R.I.P.), J. Corrigan (R.I.P.), J. O'Rourke, J. Dobbin T. Clear, P. McFadden, P. Cunning, J McKeown.

Until 1924 Antrim was divided into North and South. Others who helped to guide the destinies of the Association in North Antrim were:—Messrs. F. McCarny, S. Clarke, P. McCampbell, A. McMullan, J. Clarke, G. Ramsden, P. Conway, E. Brogan, J. Cairns, J. McCarny, and A. Butler. And in the South—Messrs. J. McGinley, B. O'Brien J. McClements, J. Johnston, J. Harvey, J. Carmichael, and club leaders of great influence such as Messrs. R. Maguire (R.I.P.), P. McGravey (R.I.P.), P. Thomas, J. Harte, J. Duffin, etc.

In 1924 Mr. P. McNamee organised South-west Antrim, and the following officials looked after the interests of the district since:—Messrs. W. McCormick, P. Hutchinson, J. Murphy, B. Hurrell, W Young, O. Toal, J. Grant, P. J. O'Connor-Duffy, H. Kearney, J. Kelly, P. McAteer, T. Martin, J. McLoughlin, A. Martin, and P. O'Kane.

FINDING PLAYING FIELDS.

Want of playing fields was the first, as it is still the big, obstacle to the advance of the G.A.A. in Belfast. It is not a great difficulty in country areas. Falls Park sufficed for the first few years, then the advent of Peter O'Neill Crowleys initiated the spirit of enterprise. They rented a field, and named it Kilclooney Park, and many exciting games were played on it.

Seaghan an Diomais, organised soon afterwards, leased and enclosed a ground on Whiterock Road. Shaun's Park became known to the Gaels of Ireland, and was the headquarters of the G.A.A. in Antrim for a score of years.

When Shaun's Park was lost to the G.A.A. temporary grounds were secured at Milltown, kindly lent by the De la Salle Brothers, and later a pitch was taken on the Glen Road, which did duty for three years.

In 1924 a Belfast Grounds Committee was formed, and raised £500 to help in buying land to enclose, and a few years later the present property, known as Corrigan Park, was acquired. The first trustees of Corrigan Park were Messrs. J. Coburn, J. Duffin, W. Harvey, and J. McKeown Mr. D. Dempsey became trustee in Mr. Coburn's place in 1928, and there has been no change since.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

In 1902 Antrim clubs began to foster football. The first Antrim County Football Final was played on the grounds of Celtic Association Club, Belfast. On the same day the second Antrim Hurling final was decided at the same venue.

Much of the early enthusiasm and pioneer work of the G.A.A. in Antrim was inspired by Southern Gaels—civil-servants, bank officials, and shop-assistants—who had learned the games in their native counties.

Prominent among these were the following hurlers:—Messrs. M. Langtry, J. Galbraith, W. Barrett, Brian Oge; J. O'Malley, D. Higgins, Mitchels; Art McGaun, Mick Griffin, T. Considine, P. Pardin, M. Sheehan, J. O'Dwyer, P. Sheppard, J. Saunders, the brothers Dan, Pat, and Jim Ahern, and Rev. Brothers Albeus and Lawrence (De la Salle), Tir na nOge.

Footballers of note were:—Messrs. J. Coburn, P. Meaney, W. Lennon, J. Goggins, J. Healy, Sarsfields; J. Mulvihill, Shauns; and P. Moylan, Ollamh Fodhla

INTER-COUNTY MATCHES.

Hurling.—There was only one man on the Antrim team which played Galway in 1902 who got a look at the ball. He was the captain, Mick Langtry, who pucked the ball oftener than any two men afield. He pucked out some sixty times after Galway's scores, and almost as often from wides. Yet half-a-dozen years later Galway just beat Antrim by a single score.

Antrim's Uister hurling record as champions is:—1900 to 1905, 1907 to 1913, 1916 to 1922, 1924 to 1931, 1933.

Antrim's best work in the All-Ireland Hurling Championships in later years was to draw with Kilkenny in the Junior Championship at Belfast in 1930, and the following year to beat Galway by 4-9 to 1-4 at Croke Park.

Antrim's Ulster hurling record as Championship in 1931 and 1933.

Antrim is credited with the Ulster football title in 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1904. Then from 1908 to 1913, inclusive, played more than half-a-dozen inter-finishes all claim to this title.

In 1911 Antrim beat Kilkenny—3-1 to 1-1—in the semi-final of the All-Ireland Football Championship, and the following year defeated Kerry in the same competition by 3-5 to 0-2, only to go down in the final to Louth.

The only notable success since was in 1927, when Antrim won the Dr. McKenna Cup.

In Ulster Junior circles Antrim won the title in 1913, 1914, and 1923, and the Ulster Minor Football Championship in 1932 and 1933.

The following teams represented Antrim in their successful All-Ireland semi-finals against Kilkenny, 1911: J. Healy, P. Moylan, H. Sheehan (captain); J. Coburn, H. Kane, P. L. Kelly, W. Mannering (jun.), J. Mulvihill, P. Meaney, J. Murphy, P. Barnes, L. Watters, J. Darby, J. Mullin, C. McCurry, W. Lennon, W. Goggins.

The team that beat Kerry in 1912 were —J. Monaghan; P. Moylan, P. Meaney, J. Coburn (capt.), A. Mullan, P. Kelly, W. Manning (junr.), J. Murphy, W. Mulholland, L. Watters, J. Mulvihill, E. Ward, J. Mullan, E. Gorman, P. Barnes, J. Gallagher, M. Maguire.

From 1902 schoolboy hurling and football competitions have been fostered chiefly by the Irish and De La Salle Christian Brothers. The late Mr. Joseph Biggar, solicitor, Belfast, put up a bronze shield for a Boys' Antrim Hurling Championship, and this was won first by Hardinge Street Christian Brothers I P. School in 1903. The schools competitions then had a chequered career until 1921, when the Antrim County Committee joined with the Christian Brothers and National School teachers in putting the competitions on a firm basis. Messrs. P. Cleary (R.I.P.), J. Bradley, D. O'Sullivan, M. Gallagher, and Brothers Burke and Rice carried on until 1927, when Messrs D. Dempsey and W. Harvey took charge, and have since guided the Schools Association.

The revival of the Belfast Feis last year was a great success, due in a large measure to the co-operation between the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League. The chief events took place at Corrigan Park, and included a hurling match between Dublin and Antrim, which narrowly Dublin won.

DUAL CHAMPIONS

Considering that South Antrim teams play both hurling and football, it is surprising how few have written their names on both County Championship trophies. The following have done so:—Tir-na-nOge, O'Neill Crowleys, Seaghan an Diomais, John Mitchels, James Stephens, O'Donovan Rossas, O'Connells—all Belfast clubs.

No North Antrim team has won both championships. The "Glens" area played hurling only until this year. Dunloy Cuchullains, a North Antrim team, played football solely until a few years ago.

Seaghan an Diomais has the best dual record having won the Hurling Championship three times and the Football Championship four times.

James Stephens hold the record for the Football Championship having won it six times in succession and seven times altogether. Cuchullians Dunloy come next with four successive wins and a total of five.

O'Connell's, Belfast, and Shamrocks, Loughguile, won the Hurling Championship four times each, and Carey Faughs, McQuillans, Ballycastle, and Seaghan an Diomais, Belfast, three times each.

The following players gained Inter-County honours in both games:—H. Sheehan, H. O'Toole, J. Hughes, T. Sheehan, D. Dempsey, D. Maguire, P. Gallagher, J. Gallagher, W. Manning, W. Manning (junior), D. Higginson, R. Beatson, H. Laverty, E. Gorman, P. Barnes, J. Best, J. McDowell, P. Fox, J. McKeown, S. Murphy, P. Cunning, J. McFerran, E. McHenry, J. Butler, R. Sadleir, A. Fox, D. Ahern, J. Osborne, C. Duffen, W. Mulvinod, A. Thornbury, E. Thornbury, P. Boomer, G. McDermott, J. McNally, J. Barry, E. Mackin, J. Harvey.

W. Coburn captained the Antrim team which beat Kerry in the 1912 All Ireland football semi-final. He is now the "captain" of the G.A.A. official barque in Antrim and the most efficient official connected with the games in Ulster.

Joe Gallagher, the most famous of Antrim footballers, played against Kerry in 1912, won a medal in the challenge game against Kildare in the holds medals for hurling.

John McKeown, the present Antrim hurling captain, played for Antrim in 1908, and has participated in all Antrim's triumphs since.

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FIRST TITLE BROUGHT TO ULSTER

ARMAGH

Chairman—Rev. H. McOscar, C.C.
Secretary—Mr. P. J. O'Neill, Middletown.
Colours—Orange Jersey; White Knicks.

IN 1887 the first Gaelic teams were organised in Crossmaglen and Keady. The organisers in Crossmaglen were Messrs. O. Trainor, John Donaghy (capt.), deceased for some years, Jas. Watters, vice-capt., Joseph M. Morris, secretary, and Arthur Hughes, treasurer. The officials of the Keady team were Rev. P. Quinn, C.C., president; Messrs. A. McBride, chairman; J. Deery, secretary; John Gorman, treasurer, a native of Kilkenny, and John McGleenan, captain. Keady did not take part in the final of the first county championship owing to an allegation that Fenianism was being introduced into their club, and Crossmaglen were declared winners.

The organisation soon spread through South Armagh to Cullyhanna, Dorsey, Glassdrummond, Newtownhamilton, and Culloville.

The next districts to fall into line was Camlough, with two teams, the O'Briens and the Dillons, Tullywinney and Killeavey. The most famous of these was the O'Briens, with men like Barney McGrath, Michael Crilly, and the Osbornes, who set a fine standard for players of the later team, the Shane O'Neills, which produced such grand players as J. Sheeran, J. E. Murphy, F. Rooney, and J. O'Hare.

The Tullywinney team had several players of such note as the McKeowns, the Magennises, and J. Judge. Keady was re-organised, and Armagh Harps were added to the list. Lurgan affiliated with the Antrim Board, and took part in the championships there, although a Lurgan player (Berwick) assisted the Armagh County team on many occasions. This area remained with Antrim, off and on, until 1930, when it renewed allegiance to Armagh.

Crossmaglen Red Hands, who had become disorganised, were re-established through the efforts of T. Gribben, P. Eardley, and others. Teams were established in Keady, Camlough, Armagh, Crossmaglen, Tullyvallen (near Newtownhamilton), and Whitecross. Mr. Jas. Cotter, a native of Cork, and a teacher in Markethill, was Chairman of the County Board, and Mr. P. McKnight, of Keady, was Secretary.

A great difficulty at this stage was a uniform interpretation of the playing rules, and this difficulty was solved when Mr. A. Rogers, Dundalk, began refereeing matches at the request of the County Committee. For over 25 years he refereed matchs in South Armagh and South Monaghan, and to him credit is due for improving the standard of play in these areas. Mr. P. Murray, of Camlough, who was Chairman of the County Board during the most successful years, also took a great part as a referee in helping to standardise the game.

The first trophy presented to the Co. Committee was a fine silver cup, obtained from Mr. M'Killop, M.P. This cup was presented during the term of office of Messrs. J. Cotter and P. McKnight, as Chairman and Secretary, respectively, and is now the trophy for the Senior Co. Championship, and at present in the possession of Crossmaglen.

Mr. P. Eardley, Crossmaglen, was Chairman of Co. Board from 1908-11, and was assisted as Co. Sec. by Mr. P. Mooney, Bessbrook, who died two years ago (R.I.P.) and afterwards by Mr. J. Judge, of Belleek.

Bessbrook Geraldines won the McKillop Cup on two occasions, and played Castleblayney Faughs at Keady in the National Aid Tournament, in which all county champions took part. Mr. M. O'Hare (Bessbrook) at this time was Chairman of the Co. Committee, and Mr. J. Judge, Belleeks, was Secretary. Both were victims of the influenza epidemic of 1918. Go ndeanaidh Dia trocair orthu.

Mr. P. D. Fearon, Camlough, was Chairman of the Co. Committee from 1915-1921, and during his term of office was aided by several secretaries, viz., Messrs. D. Osborne, Camlough; C. and M. McCann, Armagh; and J. Cooney, Armagh. During the period of the Anglo-Irish war, G.A.A. affairs became disorganised, and only about two clubs were actually in existence in 1921 or '22.

Winning the Ulster Junior Championship again in 1926, Armagh met Sligo in the semi-final at Dublin. A draw was the result, and the Armagh team prepared to meet Sligo in the replay at Cavan. In this preparation they were so ably assisted by Andy Rogers, P. Duff, and M. Flynn, of Dundalk, that Sligo were defeated. As a result of the able coaching of Messrs. J. Cooney and J. M. Gerrigan of Armagh Young Irelands, and the Co. Sec., one of the finest teams that ever came from Ulster took the field against Dublin at Croke Park, and by their victory took the first All-Ireland Championship to Ulster.

The players on that occasion were:—C. Morgan (goal), H. Comiskey, E. Hanratty (capt.), J. Vallely, J. Harney, J. Maguire, O. Connolly, J. Corrigan, F. M'Avinchey, F. Toner, P. Fearon (Co Sec.), J. Kernan, H. Arthurs, J. Donaghy, J. McCusker.

During these years Armagh entered and won on various occasions all Ulster Senior competitions except the Championship. A memorable occasion of Ulster Finals was that of 1931, when Armagh and Cavan played before a record crowd at Dundalk, Armagh being beaten by a point scored in the last minute of the game. Other famous matches were that against Kildare in Armagh City in the National Football League, those in which Monaghan was defeated in the Most Rev. Dr. McKenna Cup Final at Monaghan town, and in the Dean Keown Cup Final at Carrickmacross, and that against Meath at Drogheda in the final of their division of the National League, when Meath won by a point. The latest was that in which Louth were defeated in the Saul Memorial Cup Final at Dundalk a fe wmonths ago.

ARMAGH OFFICIALS.

Mr. P. Fearon, P.E.T., Bessbrook, a native of Armagh, and formerly Co. Sec., is at present Chairman of the Ulster Provincial Council of the G.A.A., and Mr. P. Murray, P.E.T., Bessbrook, and formerly County Chairman, was the first Armagh man to be appointed as Ulster representative to the Central G.A.A. Council.

There are two divisions in the county—Mid Division and the South Division. Rev. J. Quinn, C.C., Armagh, is Chairman of the Mid Division, with Mr. P. Murray, P.L.G., Lurgan, as Secretary, and Mr. O. Bennett, Armagh, as Treasurer. The officials in South Armagh are Messrs. T. Gribben, P.E.T., Newtownhamilton, Chairman; M. Luckie, P.E.T., Carrickrovaddy, Secretary and Treasurer; and Mr. T. V. McAvoy, P.E.T., Ballinliss, Vice-Chairman.

The trophies in possession of the Co. Committee, in addition to the McKillop Cup, are that for competition in the Mid-Division, presented by Rev. H. McOscar, Co. President; that for Senior football presented by Mr. J. Trodden, Armagh; the Richardson Cup in the South Division, presented by Mr. E. Richardson, of Crossmaglen, the famous Ulster and All-Ireland cycling champion, and the McArdle and Moore Cup, also competed for in the Mid-Division.

For hurling his Eminence Cardinal MacRory presented a very beautiful Cup in 1933, to be a perpetual trophy for hurling in the county.

Hurling was organised in Keady and Camlough about 1900, its organisation in Keady being the work of Rev. Bro. Lawrence, then teaching with the De La Salle Brothers in Keady, and its organisation in Camlough and Lislea district resulted from the work of Mr. Seamus O'Hanlon, who died in America.

Since 1924 Armagh has taken part in the Ulster Hurling Championship with but indifferent success, but at present there are teams in Keady, Camlough, Portadown, Lurgan, and Armagh. The Ulster Hurling Championship match between Armagh and Down, in 1933, was one of the best played for a long time, and hurling is improving.

Keady are the present holders of the Cardinal McRory Cup.

LIATH MACHA.

HIGH HOPES AFTER MANY VICISSITUDES

CARLOW

Chairman—Rev. J. Lawlor, P.P.
Secretary—Mr. M. Lynch, Old Leighlin, Muinebeag.
Colours—Red and Green (hoops).

RESIDENTS of Carlow town having become acquainted with the Gaelic Athletic Association, decided to hold an athletic sports meeting under G.A.A. rules in Carlow. The sports were held on September 13, 1887.

The success of the athletic sports suggested the immediate formation of a G.A.A. football club. The first meeting was held on November 1, 1887. Mr. N. P. Roche presided.

The club being started, the first game was played against Athy, at Athy, on December 25, 1887, the home team being victorious by 2 points to 1 point. The return game was played at Carlow on January 29, 1888, Carlow being victorious by 1 point to nil.

News of a football game soon got going. Clubs started up like wild-fire in every part of the county. After midday on Sundays, old and young were seen trodding along to the nearest field, where the sound of the ball, with the chances of a kick or two, was to be a new tonic, especially for the country folk.

At first there was an element of caution on the part of civil servants and those in the employment of the local gentry to join up—in fact, in some cases victimisation was threatened, and members had to withdraw their names from the Association.

In a few months the time was ripe for clubs to meet and have a county association formed. After the usual preliminaries the first meeting was held at the Young Men's Catholic Society Rooms, Carlow, on April 2, 1888. The clubs represented were Aghade, Ballon, Borris, Carlow, Clonegal, Clonmore, Hacketstown, Rathvilly, Ticknock. Michael P. Maher, Rathvilly Club, presided. Officers were appointed till October with John Kehoe, Mountneill Manor, as Chairman, and Francis Stenson, "Carlow Nationalist" Office, as Secretary.

The Co. Convention was held at Lennon's Hotel, Tullow, on October 30, 1888. The officers appointed were:—Chairman, Edward J. Doyle, Ballon; Secretary, John Conlan, "Carlow Nationalist" Office. Messrs. John Conlan and Francis Stenson were selected to attend the coming All-Ireland Convention at Thurles.

THE VIGOUR OF EARLY GAMES.

The championship was arranged for the spring. With few exceptions—even supposed friendlies—the games were very rough, force more than science being generally the prevailing element.

The first championship game was played between Donore and Carlow, the venue being on the famous Ballybar race course on the March 3, 1889. The different rounds were quickly played out, the final being between Ballon and Tullow at Carlow on June 9, 1889. Ballon won by four points to one point.

MOST REV. DR. CULLEN, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, a prominent figure at Gaelic games.

The winning team was:—John Cummins (capt.,, John Nolan, John Keegan, Michael MacAssey, Tom Donohoe, James Brien, John Maher, Patrick Kerins, Jas. Kerins, Gal. Donohoe John Kealy, Jas. Byrne, Thos. Connors, John Gahan, Peter O'Neill, Will Murphy, Thos. Nolan, Path. Brien, Brian Flynn, Myles Nolan, Lar. Byrne.

Political divisions in the county were the cause of the Association becoming defunct for some years.

REVIVAL OF ACTIVITIES

In 1897 copies of a letter from the secretary of the Central Council were sent round with a request to re-start the county on business lines. The convention was held in the Town Hall, Carlow, on Sept. 20, 1897. Mr. J. P. Clowry presided. Ten clubs were represented.

The fact that the year 1898 was close at hand offered a great chance to the game. All joined to make the occasion worthy of the cause in the county. Roughness, however, soon manifested itself again and the Association was just able to hold its head above water for a time.

ANOTHER REVIVAL.

The year 1909 saw the Association coming into new life. Carlow Graigue (Leix Co.) had been permitted to affiliate with Co. Carlow, and with Borris coming into prominence in 1910 the county soon had a combination second to no junior county in Ireland. Under the leadership of Joseph Millett, the Borris team could hold its own against any local team anywhere.

In 1912 emigration caused the Borris team to collapse. Graigue Cullen had then practically on its own to supply a county team which went to the All-Ireland Junior semi-final, meeting Kerry at Cork on July 12, 1914, and Kerry won—7 points to 5.

Graigue Cullen kept the ball rolling, defeating Antrim in the All-Ireland Junior Final at Croke Park on October 12, 1924, by 9 points to 3. The county team then met Tipperary on November 9, 1924, at Croke Park in the All-Ireland Junior Final, and was beaten by 12 points to 4.

In August, 1926, Graigue Cullen went back again to Leix, and the county was once more on its own resources.

Two years ago the county met Louth in the Leinster Junior final at Croke Park and lost.

Last year Carlow beat Wicklow at Enniscorthy in the Leinster junior final, qualifying to meet Mayo in the All-Ireland semi-finals at Athlone. The Carlow men were again unlucky, and Mayo won.

The present vice-president of the Co. Board, Mr. Thomas Little, has been an active member of the Association since the second year of its birth.

Mr. Edward O'Toole, captain of the St. Patrick's Club, Rathvilly, in 1888, still cycles long distances to witness and enjoy the games.

The Shamrock's Club, Carlow town, has been instrumental in procuring a new county grounds, which in a few years will be a splendid one. Clubs having up-to-date grounds at present are the O'Hanrahans, Carlow town, Bagenalstown, and Tullow.

That the county will continue to take its place amongst the other counties of Ireland and carry on successfully the National Games is the hope and prayer of every Carlow Gael.

S. S.

FIRST COLLEGE ALL-IRELAND.

The first All-Ireland College Final was played in Thurles in 1911, when Munster beat Leinster.

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THURLES

BROUGHT FIRST ALL-IRELAND TO ULSTER.

CAVAN

Chairman—Mr. J. Gilheany.

Secretary—Mr. J. J. Clarke, McDermott St., Cavan.

Colours—Blue with White Knicks.

WHATEVER the future may hold, Cavan will go down in history as the first county to bring an All-Ireland Senior Cup north of the Boyne.

Cavan's victory in the All-Ireland football final of 1933 was the reward of persistent effort and unwavering loyalty.

When Michael Cusack read the modest list of his first affiliated clubs to the Congress of 1886 he had one from Ulster—Ballyconnell. At the Convention to reconstruct the G.A.A. in 1888 Cavan was one of the nineteen counties represented. Mr. Patrick O'Reilly was elected on that occasion as Cavan's first representative on the Central Council, but his election was conditional, as a county had to have five affiliated clubs to enjoy representation, and at that time Cavan (like Monaghan and Kerry) had not the necessary number.

But never once during the years since then has Cavan given a thought or a place in its programme to any games but those of the Gael.

Cavan's first great achievement was in 1891, when the famous Slashers swept all before them, beating Antrim and Armagh to reach the All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin at Clonturk Park. Dublin won, and turned out again to win the All-Ireland final. There followed another period of apathy in Ulster generally, but Cavan kept the ball rolling, though in 1896 there was only one affiliated club in the county, the Kingscourt footballers.

In 1900, after Cavan had dominated Ulster football since the foundation of the Association, Antrim took the title, and Cavan did not again become Ulster football champions until 1905. Monaghan and Antrim then had a monopoly of the championships until 1915.

Until a few years ago, Cavan and Monaghan continued to be the top dogs in Ulster football. Since Antrim won the 1913 Ulster final, no other county has broken the Cavan and Monaghan monopoly. Last year Cavan won the Ulster championship for the third year in succession. But the vast improvement in the standard of the game all over the province makes that monopoly no longer secure. Great teams like the Cavan Slashers, Cornafean, Maghera, and Virginia have set headlines that clubs beyond the border have been following with zeal.

TWO CASES OF HARD LUCK.

It is, however, during the last ten years that Cavan has come to the front. In 1925 there was a memorable game in Tralee when Kerry, then All-Ireland champions and at the height of their greatness, were considered by many to be lucky when they beat Cavan by a single point in the All-Ireland semi-final in Kerry's own capital. The Slashers were not, however, to be denied. The cup might be dashed from their lips, but they were bent upon one day getting a firm grip upon it.

Three years later Cavan took the field for the first time in an All-Ireland final. After one of the most thrilling hours ever witnessed at Croke Park, that almost perfect football machine from Kildare finished one point ahead of a Cavan team that had again not one moment's smile from Dame Fortune.

BREFFNI ABU!

The stirring and, for Cavan, historic events of 1933 are yet too fresh in the minds of the Gael to need recalling.

What Cavanman will ever forget the heart-throbs of that August day, 1933, in Breffni Park when the almost invincible Kerrymen, who had carried the All-Ireland Cup in their pockets, as it were, for four successive years, were beaten by the gallant boys of Cavan in one of the most trying tests ever witnessed on a Gaelic field?

Or perhaps it is the scene at Croke Park on September 24, [illegible] that will live longest in the minds of Cavanmen, when after an hour of football as great and exciting as the greatest, Cavan stood four square against Galway's death-or-glory effort to turn defeat into victory, and 45,000 spectators saw for the first time an Ulster captain handed the All-Ireland Cup?

In football Cavan has come to the top with the definite intention of staying there. Our border friends from Meath have since taken a fall out of us in the League Final, as they often did before, and as Cavan often did to them.

It is to this traditional rivalry between Meath and Cavan, and Cavan and Monaghan, that Cavan owes much of its skill and toughness on the football field. Nobody rejoices more than Cavan to know that other Northern counties have determined to dethrone Breffni.

HURLING.

There is one drawback to Gaelic games in Cavan. Hurling does not occupy the position it deserves. Cavan men never took to the game in modern times. In 1918, when the camán became almost ubiquitous during the Cavan election because the carrying of hurleys had been declared a crime, there were many who hoped the hurleys had come to stay. Not that Cavanmen have not proved themselves adepts at the game when they tried it. Jim Smith, the Cavan All-Ireland football champion, can wield a camán with a skill and dexterity that would give him a place on any first-class county team if he had the ambition and the opportunity.

There are signs, however, that Cavan will soon be a force on the hurling field. For more than a dozen years the camán has been cherished in Cavan, Belturbet, Ballyhaise, and other parishes. A county championship has brought out many promising hurlers whose principal need is practice and contact with counties where the game is more advanced. With hurling now well established in North Meath, it should be possible to spread its roots across the border to places like Virginia and Mullagh and Bailieboro', where football is already firmly established.

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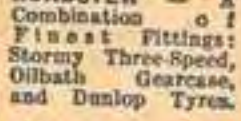

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IN MICHAEL CUSACK'S COUNTY

CLARE

Chairman—Rev. M. Hamilton, B.A., B.D.
Secretary—M. Hennessy, Toonagh, Quin.
Colours—Green and Gold.

WHEN Michael Cusack, the pioneer and founder of the G.A.A., first issued his clarion-call to the people of Ireland to rally round the standard of Gaelicisation in athletics, amongst the first of the counties that responded was his native Clare. The national pastimes of hurling and football had, indeed, been in vogue in the county for long ages before, but they were uncodified and unorganised, and county competitions as such did not exist, though there had been occasional parochial rivalry.

It was late in the year 1884 when the Association was formally inaugurated at Thurles, hence it was only in 1885 that clubs began to spring up in Clare, as in other counties.

As far as can be ascertained from scanty records, it would seem that the honour of having the longest established team in the county belongs to Tulla, and the Gaels of that district take a justifiable pride in the fact that in the fifty years since they have never ceased to take an active and prominent part in the affairs of the Association. It is an appropriate coincidence that they are the present holders of the Senior and Minor Hurling Championships in the county.

Other areas soon followed the lead of Tulla, and in the years 1885 and 1886 clubs were organised in Feakle, Kilmaceduane, Moyasta, Killimer, Cree, Newmarket, Kilrush, Kilmihill, Ennis, Ogonelloe, and Carron, the last-named being the birthplace of Cusack. Unofficial clubs existed in many other areas, such as Kiltenora, Bridgetown, Glenomera, Lisdoonvarna, Ruan, Dysart Bodyke, Mountshannon, Inch, Barefield, Kilmaley, nearly all of which had become formally affiliated with the G.A.A. by 1887.

From the reports of meetings held, and from the names by which some of the clubs were designated—e.g., Thomas Davis, Datcassian, Brian Boru, Sarsfield, etc., it is evident that the sturdy sons of Clare were conscious of the national importance of the new Gaelic movement, and they rallied to its standard with a widespread and genuine enthusiasm.

Contests began to be arranged, and were patronised by gatherings of spectators that were numbered in thousands. Excitement frequently reached a high pitch. There were occasional injuries due to the inevitable lack of skill, but a good temper seems to have prevailed, and an atmosphere of chivalry surrounded the events.

County Championships were first instituted in 1887, the first titles being won by Garranboy in hurling, and by Newmarket in football. It is interesting to note that in those days football was played by several clubs in the eastern portion of the county, whilst hurling was popular in the north and west. Nowadays, hurling is confined almost exclusively to East Clare, football to the west, Ennis and Clarecastle on the border line having teams in both games.

With the exception of the period from 1890 to 1895, when the Association in Clare, as elsewhere, seems to have lost some of its early vigour, and also the years 1920 and 1921, when many of the leading Gaels were more accustomed to the rifle than to the camán, the Championships were always concluded with punctual regularity.

The first appearance of the Banner County in the All-Ireland hurling final was in 1889, when the Clare team was beaten by Dublin on the scores 5-1 to 1-6. It is reported that the Clare men were handicapped on the occasion by playing in bare feet. Tulla had the exclusive selection, and some of those who played in that final are, happily, still living, amongst them Mr. Patrick O'Neill and also Mr. D. McKenna, who was present at last year's Munster and All-Ireland finals.

In 1896 Clare defeated Wexford in the Croke Cup hurling final by 6-16 to 0-2. Again, Tulla had the selection, but it included some members from outside clubs, Mr. Kelly and the well-known "Feather" Henchy of Feakle. The "Independent" report of this match refers to "the marvellous speed and dexterity" of the Claremen.

In 1907 Clare again appeared in the Croke Cup Final, but were defeated by Galway at Loughrea by 4-5 to 1-8. O'Callaghan's Mills had by this time come to the forefront in hurling, winning the County Championship five times in seven years. They had seven of a representation at Loughrea, including the present Chairman of the Dublin Co. Board, Major T. McGrath, who also held, at one time, the position of Secretary to the Clare Board. Tulla had three members on the selection; Kilnamona three; Carahan two; Ennis, Cratloe, and Barefield one each.

THE FIRST ALL-IRELAND.

It was not until 1914 that the first All-Ireland Hurling Championship came to Clare, when after an epic struggle against Cork in the Munster final, winning by one point, they had an easy victory over Leix by 5-1 to 1-0. Mr. A. Power was captain of the team on that occasion, and Mr. P. McInerney ("Fowler"), who is still prominent in the field, was in goal. Clare won the Junior All-Ireland in the same year, Dr. T. Daly making his debut as goalman.

In football, Clare won the Munster Championship in 1917, and were beaten by Wexford in the All-Ireland final by 0-9 to 0-4. Mr. T. Considine, who has played an outstanding part in the G.A.A. in the county as hurler, footballer, and Co. Secretary, was a member of the 1917 football team.

Further successes won by Clare in more recent times include: in 1925, Junior Football Championship of Munster: Second Division National Hurling League; in 1929: Munster and All-Ireland Minor Football; Thomond Feis Hurling; in 1930, Munster Minor Football, and in 1932 Munster Senior Hurling Championship

The first chairman whose name appears on the records was Mr. E. Bennett, Chairman of the Ennis Board of Guardians, and at one time President of the Association. The first Secretary Mr. P. Ahearne, Ennis. Mr. Bennett was succeeded by Rev. T. Barry, C.C., Newmarket, and others who have filled the Chair since are—Mr. P. J. Cummins, Mr. T. Coughlan, Rev. M. O'Houlihan, Mr. J. Malone, Rev. M. Crowe, and Rev. M. Hamilton, who has occupied the position since 1920, and has been unanimously re-elected for the jubilee year.

Amongst those who have acted as Secretaries have been Messrs. P. Ahearne, P. McInerney, C. Kearney, P. Kenny, T. McGrath, P. Hennessy and Mr. T. Considine, who held the office until he retired this year, and was succeeded by Mr. M. Hennessy.

All have contributed by their energies and enthusiasm to the strength and solidarity of the G.A.A. in Clare, but if credit were to be given to all to whom it is due, namely to all those Gaels who have sacrificed their time and labour, and in many cases their financial resources, in working for the promotion of Gaelic games, the list would become too exhaustive for a brief sketch, and to single out any would be invidious. Their labours have borne rich fruit, for there is scarcely a district in Clare today which has not its team or club, and the ideals of theG.A.A. are ardently cherished.

Rapid progress has been made in recent years; in 1928 there were 65 teams, including Seniors, Juniors, Minors, Juveniles; in 1931 there were 100, and last year the record number of 132 was reached.

Championships are played in hurling and football in five grades—Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Minor, and Juvenile, and in addition there is the "Clare Champion" Cup competition in hurling, and the Cusack Cup in football. The Association is flourishing in Cusack's county, and in this, the Jubilee Year, the Gaels of Clare can well look back over the past fifty years with pride, and to the future with hope and confidence.

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A PROUD RECORD

CORK

Chairman—Mr. Sean McCarthy, B.A.
Secretary—Mr Sean Og Murphy, 37 Cook St., Cork.
Colours—Red and White.

FROM the founding of the Association to its Jubilee Year, Cork County and Corkmen have taken a foremost place in its Fields and Councils. Our first and most distinguished patron, Archbishop Croke, was a Corkman. Mr. John McKay, of Cork, was one of the "seven" founders and joint-secretary, appointed on that fateful November day at Hayes's Hotel, Thurles.

It was in Cork City (at the Victoria Hotel) that the second meeting of the Association was held, under the Presidency of Ald. Madden, Mayor-Elect of the City, on December 27, 1884.

It was a Corkonian, too, who was appointed first Handicapper under G.A.A. rules—Mr. J. F. O'Crowley. He conducted hundreds of athletic meetings through 1885 and 1886 with much unbiassed integrity, before resigning in favour of Mr. F. B. Dineen in 1887.

Away back in 1890, Cork had the distinction of winning both the All-Ireland Championships—Ahabullogue (Hurling) and Midleton (Football), and right down the years, with many vicissitudes of fortune, Cork has taken a prominent place in every branch of the G.A.A. programme, sending out more grouped champions in hurling, football, handball, and athletics than any other county. In the number of affiliated clubs Cork runs a close second to the Capital, with its mighty resources.

Alderman Dan Horgan, who lived to a ripe old age prominent in Civic and National affairs, was Cork's first G.A.A. Chairman. With him were associated Mr. John Slattery (Treasurer); David Walsh, Riverstown (Secretary); Messrs. P. M. Fitzgerald, who presided later at the stormy 1887 Convention at Thurles; T. O'Riordan, of the "Cork Herald," and John Mandeville, of Mitchelstown—just released from prison. Mr. Riordan later became Secretary to the Central Council of the G.A.A. under Maurice Davin's Presidency in 1888.

FAMOUS TEAMS.

Such herculean teams as Clondrohid (1891), Dromtariffe (1893), and Nils (1894) went right through to the All-Ireland Finals, and were unlucky losers. Our hurlers were even more successful, as might be expected where the caman art was handed down from generation to generation. Redmonds won the Championship in 1892, to be followed by Blackrock stalwarts in 1893 and 1894. At that period Cork's skill with the caman was proverbial. In pure art of ball control and wristwork they stood unrivalled.

Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., of Mallow, in whose paper—"United Ireland"—Michael Cusack's first letters appeared, and where the G.A.A. was in reality conceived, was appointed Patron of the G.A.A. in 1888, and Cork athletes figured prominently in successive athletic championships.

Mr. T. J. O'Mahony, of Rosscarbery, was Ireland's best sprinter for several years. O'Regan, of Mourne Abbey, was mile champion. Then came that wonder pair of Duhallow men—T. M. O'Connor, Ballyclough, high-jump champion, and Denis Power, of Ballywalter who won the Hurdles in 1888, who were on the American Invasion Team, with J. McCarthy (Macroom), (mile), Bill Phibbs, of Glenville (long-distance), and Mooney of Ballyhea (furlong), and the Rosscarbery "steam-engine," of course.

At that period (1884 to 1888) the G.A.A. in Cork flourished, but bitter political divisions shook it for a long session. We had two distinct Boards in operation for several years, with resultant discord. Teams took sides in the Parnell split, and only the presence of high-grade athletes kept interest alive.

These appeared in growing numbers—D. F. Horgan, Cork City; Dr. Tom O'Donovan, Lisduff; P. J. O'Sullivan and Danis Horgan, Banteer; Con Phibbs of Glenville; Delaney of Riverstown; and Jumbo Barry of Cork, all of championship and international class, followed by Tom Garde, the O'Sullivans of Naad, and groups of useful handicap runners and jumpers.

It was about 1894 that Mr. Michael Deering, a sterling Nationalist and noble soul, became President of the Cork G.A.A., with Mr. M. P. Fitzpatrick, of Passage, as Secretary. Quickly the Association was built up.

Mr. Tom Dooley, now the patriarch of the Association, followed on Michael Deering's early death. He had good lieutenants in William Parfrey, James Harrington and Matt Riordan, who succeeded him as Chairman. "Mato," as he was known, was an able just man of quick decision and clear thought. He put in some wonderful work through a difficult period.

In the early days of the 20th century there was a quickening of national interest through the country generally. The Gaelic League and Industrial Development Association brought groups of young men forward. Led by Mr. J. J. Walsh, a group of new clubs were affiliated in a series of Leagues for the spread of the games. Their numbers increased, and when Conventions came around the young group were elected to the leading positions in the Association, with Mr. J. J. Walsh, afterwards Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, as President.

CORK AS A MODEL BOARD.

Cork again took a strong hand in provincial and Executive administration, and their programmes were run through with a punctuality, decorum, and despatch which raised the tone and status of the games to a new peak. Mr. T. Irwin, a superb hurler, and all-round sportsman, continued as Secretary between the old regime and the new, working with zeal and patience.

Cork ran into the All-Ireland football finals in 1906 and 1907, losing to Kickham's brilliant combinations of Dublin by narrow margins. Still maintaining their high football standard, Cork went right through the Championship in 1911.

Hurling still flourished in the country of the Lee and Blackwater. A Blackrock selection, under B. Murphy's captaincy, were unlucky to lose to Kilkenny by a point in a memorable game at Croke Park in 1912, and two years later a strongly fancied Cork fifteen, leading at the half-hour, were beaten in a heavy downpour of rain by Leix.

Mr. J. J. Walsh left G.A.A. activities about this period to take part in more serious National work. In appreciation of his wonderful work he was appointed Hon. President of the Cork Board for life. His mantle fell on worthy shoulders, introducing us to a brilliant part-

(Continued on Cols. 2 and 3, Page 62.)

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CHRISTMAS DAY HURLING MATCHES

DERRY

Chairman—Rev. A. O'Doherty, C.C.

Secretary—Mr. P. Larkin, Draperstown.

Colours—Orange and Green.

DERRY has been one of the "black sheep" of the G.A.A. during the half century of the Association's existence. There have been more reorganisations and revivals in this county than in any of the thirty-two, punctuating the periods of occasional brilliance, mediocrity, and distressing lapses into inactivity, lasting often for years.

Derry, however, is not altogether barren of records, and, though to most it will appear strange, it was in hurling that these honours were gained.

Derry City, capital of the North-West, has nearly always been the centre of activities for the county, and, with the exceptions of a few occasions, Innishowen, through its proximity to this centre, has always come under the Derry Board.

FIRST HURLING TEAM.

Derry took kindly to hurling when the Association was formed. It could not be otherwise, for hurling matches of some description were played in the county prior to 1884. Accounts exist of "caman" matches played in County Derry early in the nineteenth century, "caman" probably being an old form of hurling more like the present day shinty. Towards the end of last century it was still a custom in country districts to play a caman match on Christmas Day, in which the Planter population joined as heartily as the native stock.

The first hurling team in the county, St. Patrick's, was formed in 1884 by the late Frank Carlin, afterwards N.T. It is hard to say whether the Association or this team was formed first. Hibernians, Bright Stars, McCarthys soon followed, together with John Mitchels of Claudy, and at a later date a team from Muldowney, while Burt, in Donegal, was organised early after the "Pat."

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Then for over ten years hurling and football flourished in Derry to an extent that, it is said, has never been equalled since. Not only was there a splendid Gaelic spirit, but the hardy pioneers of this period are reputed to have been adept at the games.

County Championships were played as early as 1890, when a cup, still to be seen in the city, proclaims St. Patrick's the winners, though there may have been earlier competitions for this honour. Many and lively were the tussels between the "Hibs." and the "Pats," the "Mitchels," and the "Stars" at this period. The McCarthy's were named after Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P. for Derry in the '80's.

Decay set in, and probably about 1895 hurling dropped off in the district, and another century had dawned before the clash of the caman resounded again through the "Oak Groves."

The first revival of the Association took place early in the new century, the local council concentrating on hurling in the beginning, to the exclusion of football, and, though there were several declines, this revival lasted for practically a decade. St. Patricks were to the fore again, with the Hibernians and Sarsfields, who figured prominently in the local arena later; Eire Og, Red Hand, Cumann Litiordha na Gaedhlig, and Limavady came in before 1903. These teams played in a League during the late half of this year with Cumann na nGaedheal, who figured prominently in this competition.

The Red Hand Club were from Strabane, and the games were mostly on Saturdays. Mr. C. Breslin was President this year, when Derry beat Antrim in the Ulster Hurling Championship final at Belfast on 18th Oct., 1903, after a hard fought game in which the score stood 8 pts. each at half-time, the final score being: Derry, 2-7; Antrim, 2-5. Mr. M. V. O'Nolan, Strabane, refereed this game, and the team which gave the first Ulster championship to Derry consisted of A. Cowley (Eire Og), P. Brennan, D. McLoughlin (capt.) (Sarsfields), J. L. Elliott (St. Patricks), T. Mellon, P. McCallion (Eire Og), J. McCallion and M. Cannon (Sarsfields), H Coyle, A. Coyle, D. Coyle, H. Brown, P. McCallion, J. Duffy (Sarsfields), H. Patton (Limavady), J. Crossan, P. Heaney (St. Patricks).

Meanwhile the League continued, but Fahan and Hibernians dropped out and there was a considerable falling off, with the result that Derry gave a walk-over to Faughs in the All-Ireland semi-final to have been played Easter Sunday, 1904.

OLD CUSTOM REVIVED.

The games lapsed towards the end of that year, but were resumed the following June in a field secured at the Demesne. An Aeridheacht was held here later, when the old custom of Bonfire Night was revived. Derry drew with Donegal at Carrody, after a remarkable game, the visitors having a lead of 15 points to 2 at half-time. Derry lost the replay at Burt.

New clubs were formed in Claudy, Park, Manorcunningham, as well as several city teams specially noted for football, which was then becoming popular. On St. Stephen's Day, 1905, Derry had a great Gaelic day, when, after a Caman parade, Derry met Tyrone in football, and St. Patricks v. Eire Og, and Grattans v. Omagh met in hurling.

Derry entered the final of the Ulster football championship with Monaghan in 1906 but a crux seems to have arisen over travelling arrangements. Newry travelled to play John Mitchels a friendly this year.

Everything went well in 1907. Derry again in the Ulster Hurling Championship in 1908, but the victory was dearly won for a split occurred over the alleged playing of illegal players, and the games were once more neglected in the county.

July of 1913, saw the beginning of another revival during which Gaelic football achieved great popularity. Antrim beat Derry in an exhibition game on November 30 of that year.

THE PEAK YEAR.

Twelve teams competed in a Senior Football League in 1914, and in addition, Junior Football and Hurling were catered for. Great strides were made at this period, and the future appeared bright, when the outbreak of the Great War and the Volunteer Split, resulted in yet another lapse.

Towards the end of 1916, Derry was up again this time to keep going till '22. During this period, when feelings ran high, football matches attracted immense crowds every Sunday, and the game reached its highest state of perfection in the county.

The peak year was 1920 when Senior, Junior, Minor, and School competitions ran concurrently, and when O'Tooles played Derry before a record attendance for any sport at that time, Emmets, "Pat's," Sarsfields, and the Guilds' teams were great rivals at this period when the G.A.A. was the foremost organisation in the city.

South Derry, influenced by the example of Antrim, staged a revival in 1927, which was followed by a similar movement in the city next year, Dublin and Cork coming to participate in an exhibition hurling match. Derry returned to the Ulster Championship that year, but since, both areas have had lapses, and 1932 again saw Derry out.

A welcome "come-back" was staged last year, and at present both areas are active, and for the Jubilee Year the organisation in the county is as widespread as ever it was.

Who can tell what the next 50 years will bring?

CORK— (Continued from Page 61)

nership—Messrs. Sean McCarthy and P. J. O'Keeffe, who now fill the highest posts in the Central Council of the G.A.A. Mr. McCarthy brought high leadership to the Chair, and Mr. P. J. O'Keeffe, running rapidly to the front as player, referee, organiser, and finally as secretary, opened up a new chapter in the administrative side of Gaeldom.

No sector of the movement was forgotten Affiliated clubs were doubled, and public enthusiasm was roused. Through the Anglo-Irish War, from 1916 to 1922, Cork County Gaels took a prominent part Though winning the All-Ireland hurling title in 1919, and reaching the 1920 final, Corkmen were deep in warfare, and their flying columns were amongst the most brilliant and successful forces in the guerella warfare against England, losing many members in action. Their officials were imprisoned, but resumed their G.A.A. activities on their release.

Through the last decade the G.A.A. continued to flourish in Cork. Their football talent deteriorated principally through emigration, but the hurling standard remained high. Under the captaincy of Sean Og Murphy, of Blackrock, Cork reached the All-Ireland finals in four successive years—1926, 1927, 1928, and 1929, winning three of them, and reached the peak of their brilliancy when, under Eugene Coughlan's leadership, they defeated Kilkenny in 1931, after a Marathon series in Croke Park, there hurling thrilled record crowds, and put our national pastime on a new plane of popularity and esteem.

Cork County continues in a high state of organisation. With Mr. Sean McCarthy as President, and Sean Og Murphy an efficient Secretary, their 1934 Convention was a record gathering, pointing to a continuation of past successes and constructive national work.

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This wonderful record of the G.A.A. will include in its telling one of its big events—the second meeting after its inauguration in Thurles This now historic meeting took place in what was then Cork City's outstanding HOTEL—"THE VICTORIA."
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COUNTY WITH A PROUD CLAIM

DOWN

Chairman—Mr. Sean King, Solr.
Secretary—Mr. P. J. Barry, The Carrogs, Newry.
Colours—Red and Black.

"FIFTY years agrowing." The seeds scattered from Thurles by Croke and Cusack took root around the foot of the Mournes, and in many an "unplanted" valley in Down. The growth in the first years was far from vigorous, and there was many a set-back, but the plants are hardy after fifty years, and are now to be found in every parish with National pretensions throughout Patrick's County.

Before the foundation of the G.A.A. "unorganised" National Games were played in Down under the name of "Caman" or "Shinney." Contests took place between townlands; the prowess of many a wielder of the caman was talked of round the firesides of forty years ago. County Down early responded to the principles enunciated in Dr. Croke's letter.

In such a sketch as this justice cannot be done to all the men who laid the foundations, but a few prominent names have become household words throughout the county, and their energy and enthusiasm must get the credit for the fifty Gaelic clubs that thrive in the county to-day.

THE EARLY PIONEERS.

The Leitrim "Fontenoys" claim to be one of the oldest Gaelic clubs in Ulster. Its establishment dates from 1888, and its founders were Patrick McAleenan, builder, of Castlewellan; James Fegan, a shop assistant in Backaderry; and James L. Savage, of Backaderry House, who is, happily, still with us, and a member of the County Committee. Patrick McAleenan and James L. Savage imbibed their Gaelic ideals in Dublin. Mr. McAleenan was an apprentice in the firm of Alderman Meade, and Mr. Savage was a pupil of Michael Cusack's School.

They lost no time in giving the "Fontenoys" the benefit of their experience, and the record of this club in hurling and football over the last half century testifies to the efficiency of their teaching and the aptness of their pupils. Other great names associated with the club are those of Bernard Owens, its first captain, Michael McAleenan, Joseph McKenny, and the Fitzpatricks.

Mayobridge, near Newry, came into line very early, but while Leitrim experimented with both hurling and football the "Bridge" gave its allegiance to football only. In the district even as far back as 1885 we find teams of 21 a-side "playing for a set of Crosses," and what pleases us very much is that we find one of the organisers of this tournament was Patrick Murphy, father of Patrick Murphy, one of our most brilliant inter-county men of the present day.

The names of Charles Grant, Hugh Malone, and Patrick Woods are also mentioned as players and organisers, and, like Leitrim, the "Bridge" down through the years has always kept Gaelic games to the fore, with Dan Brennan, Ted Butterfield, the Finnegans, Gallaghers, and Gribbins spoken of with the reverence due to heroes.

Though Michael Cusack was one-time Professor in St. Coleman's College, Newry, yet we do not find that such a great Nationalist centre as the Town of Newry ever devoted to Gaelic Games the enthusiasm one should have expected. Newry "Faughs" were one time one of the leading clubs in Down, and nobody could find more staunch Gaels than Bob Kelly, Pat Lavery, Jack Kinsella, Paddy Devine, and Paddy Lennon.

They worked night and day for the Gaelic Athletic Association, and were successful on several occasions in hurling and football, bringing honours in both to South Down. In later times the Christian Brothers have done wonderful work for hurling, notably Brother Rice and the late Brother O'Donoghue. They have got great help in the town from the many active Gaels.

HURLING CENTRES.

As far back as one can remember there were three prominent hurling centres in East Down—Newcastle, Kilclief, and Portaferry—and, with lesser lights like Ballyvarley and Ballela and Leitrim and the Faughs (mentioned above), it will be seen that the national game had early adherents in the county. With Newcastle must always be associated the name of J. H. King, Solicitor, its first Captain, and one of the finest hurlers in the North. Other pioneers were Messrs. Tom and John Acton.

About 1902 the Gaelic League put a new spirit into Down. Its annual Feis in Newcastle was second to none in Ireland, and in no other county was there closer connection between the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League. The County Down Feis gave a great fillip to the games, and Newcastle, mainly through the enthusiasm of its leaders, won the first hurling championship in 1904.

Mr. M. L. Cafferkey, of Castlewellan, the Feis Secretary, introduced hurling into his school at Castlewellan, and in a few years Castlewellan had a good hurling team. Happily both Messrs. King and Cafferkey are still young and hearty, and the twain are still the live wires of both the G.A.A. and the Feis Committee.

About the same period a team was formed in Kilclief, mainly through the efforts of the late Mr. Carr, N.T., and his son, Charles, who was then a youth. No team in the North has the record of "Ben Derg" Hurling Club, Kilclief, as it won the Senior Championship of the county eight times in succession. That splendid hurler, Father John McKee, C.C., from the Antrim Glens, did much to raise the standard of hurling in Kilclief during his curacy there.

Across the Ferry, Portaferry, an isolated group of Nationalists in the Ards Peninsula took early to hurling (they never would play Gaelic football), and in connection with its foundation the name of Purcell, a Kilkenny man, is reverently spoken of. In later days the family of the late Henry McGrath helped the game, while John Emerson was always a live wire. With hurling and general organisation the name of G. O'Donoghue has been closely connected for the past ten years, and his energy helped the games considerably.

Other clubs which have great records in Down are Kilcoo and Rossglass, who have won several championships; Clonduff, and Annaclone, this last-named a very old club.

Great strides have been made in recent years. Every grade of football, from the schools up, has been organised, and the teachers are doing good work. Hurling is looked after by a special committee, and, generally speaking, we can claim to be a virile unit of the Association.

For football the county is divided into three divisions, the Very Rev. Canon McGinn, P.P., V.F., being President, and Mr. Geo. Tinley Secretary of the Mourne and Newry Division; Mr. James Fitzpatrick President, and Mr. G. O'Donoghue Secretary of the Castlewellan Division; while the Rev. J. Logue, C.C., is President, and Mr. T. Carville Secretary of the East Down Division.

Down is the only county in the North of Ireland where Gaelic Games are the only games played by the Nationalists, a claim that no other county in Ireland, North or South, can equal.

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DUBLIN

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Secretary—Mr. L. O'Toole,
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Dublin.
Colours—Royal Blue with Dublin Arms in White.

THE history of the G.A.A. in Dublin during the half century of its existence would fill many pages of this Souvenir issue. Looking back on the thirty-five years that I have been associated with the organisation in the city, I have seen the rise and fall of many clubs, but there are several clubs in existence to-day in Dublin whose names are enshrined in the records of the Association from its earliest years, such as the Faughs H.C., Round Tower F.C. (Clondalkin), Kickhams, and others.

Very few of the present generation of Gaels in Dublin know of the hectic struggles that took place in those far off days at Elm Park, Clonturk, or Clonskeagh, and fewer still can remember the founder of the G.A.A., the late Michael Cusack, who was a familiar figure in our city thirty years ago.

The G.A.A. owes much to one man, and that man was Citizen Michael Cusack, who was described by the late Mr. Joseph Maguire, B.L., Dublin, as "a man of intensely Irish character and sympathies, a scholar, an athlete, and an Irish-Irelander of the most pronounced type."

FIRST HURLING CLUB.

The G.A.A did not make much progress in Dublin during the first years of its existence. Looking over the files of the old "Freeman's Journal" one notices a report of a meeting of the I.C.A. held in Kildare Place on Jan. 22, 1885, when a resolution was moved "to discuss some matters relative to the G.A.A. which had recently come into existence." Mr. Cusack came in for severe criticism from a couple of the speakers, and the chairman appealed to the athletes throughout the country "to quash the Gaelic union, which was of a political nature."

The "Metropolitans" was the first hurling club started in Dublin, in 1885. It included many Civil Servants and students who were attending Mr. Cusack's academy. Soon after the starting of the "Mets" we read of hurling clubs being organised in Inchicore and Drumcondra.

In April, 1885, a meeting was held at 42 Upper O'Connell St. to establish an All-Ireland Hurling Club. Amongst those who attended that meeting were Mr. Thos. Sherlock (father of the present Sheriff, Dr. Lorcan Sherlock, and the City Manager, Mr. Gerald Sherlock), the late Mr. John Clancy, T.C., Ml. Cusack, and Mr. P. McDonald, T.C. The Faughs H.C. was organised in 1885. In the following year the clubs in Dublin were:—Metropolitans H.C., Faughs, Michael Davitts, Terenure College, Grocers, Dunleary, and Dalkey.

JOURNALISTS AT THE HELM.

The political crisis in 1887 almost rent the Association asunder, and the records show that it had a more serious effect in Dublin than in any part of the provinces. A Dublin 1887 Convention was held on January 1, 1888, when the late Mr. John Wyse Power (father of Judge Wyse Power) was elected chairman.

It is interesting to recall the number of journalists that were connected with the G.A.A. in Dublin in its early years. In addition to Mr. Power we had the late Mr. P. P. Sutton, Frank Dineen, Stephen Holland, and Mr. M. T. O'Malley.

The year 1888 saw many changes in the G.A.A. in Dublin. The County Convention was held in November last year, and we read that 150 delegates attended. Mr. J. Wyse Power refused to go forward for election as chairman, and Mr. Joseph Bolger, of the '98 club, was nominated for the position, along with Mr. Wm. Field (later a member of Parliament), Blackrock, who was then President of the Feagh McHugh F.C. Mr. Field was defeated on a vote. Mr. Field's team won the Dublin football championship of that year, while Kickhams won the County hurling championships of 1888-'89, and '90, and followed this up by winning the 1889 All-Ireland hurling championship played at Inchicore, defeating Tulla (Clare).

FAMOUS CLUBS.

It is worthy of note that the Erin's Hope F.C. were in existence in 1887, and won the County football championship of that year. The year 1890 was a lean year in Dublin, but the two subsequent years saw a revival. Those were the early days of the Dublin Young Irelands who won the All-Ireland football finals of 1891 and 1892. The Isles of the Sea won the County football championship of 1890, while Young Irelands held the championship for four years 1891 to 1894.

In 1892 Mr. James Boland, father of the late Mr. Harry Boland, and Mr. G. Boland, T.D., was chairman of the Co. Dublin Board. He represented the P. W. Nally Club. Mr. Stephen Holland, who died in America some years ago, and who was then a member of of the "Freeman" staff, was secretary.

During the period 1895 to 1899, the Commercials, mainly comprised of assistants from business houses in the city, loomed largely in the hurling life of Dublin, winning five successive County championships. They were beaten by the Rockies (Cork) in the 1894 All-Ireland final, at Clonturk, and Tubberdora defeated them in the 1896 All-Ireland Final.

The Faughs came into prominence in the succeeding years, winning the County Championship of 1900-'01, '03, and '04. They met Cork in the 1904 All-Ireland Final, when Cork won. There was no championship in 1902. The names of the Commercials, Faughs, Kickhams, Rapparees, and Thos. Davis figure in the Co. Hurling honours during the years 1905 up to 1916, but during that period Dublin were only in two All-Ireland Finals—in 1906 when Tipperary beat Faughs at Kilkenny, and two years later when Tipperary again defeated the Kickham selection after a drawn game.

THE RISE OF COLLEGIANS.

From that, on down to 1933, new names appear on the Co. Hurling honours list. The Collegians, a team composed of students from University College, won the Co. Championship three years in succession, 1917-1919, followed by the Faughs again coming into prominence by winning the championship four years in succession, 1920-'3. The Collegians selection met Tipperary in the All-Ireland 1917 Final at Croke Park, and defeated them. The success of Kickhams in the 1924 Co. Championship, and their subsequent defeat of Galway in the 1924 All-Ireland Final saw the advent of Garda from the Depot into the Gaelic arena, and their appearance was followed by the winning of five successive Co. Hurling Finals, 1925 to 1929.

They were a well trained selection, and represented the cream of hurling drawn from all the hurling centres of Munster and Connacht.

This brings us down to 1930, when the Faughs again came into the limelight. The Garda won the Championship in 1931, to be followed by the Young Irelands in 1932, and Army Metro in 1933, new names on the county roll. Dublin won the All-Ireland Final of 1927, defeating Cork at Croke Park, but were beaten in the All-Ireland Final of 1930 by Tipperary.

I have already dealt with the Dublin football champions in the first years of the Association up to 1894. We pass on to 1895, when the Isles of the Sea were again Co. Champions, and the Young Irelands were again to the front the following year, but were defeated in the All-Ireland Final of that year by Limerick Commercials.

Kickhams were the winners of the 1897 Co. Championship, and won out the All-Ireland Final of that year, defeating Cork.

MAKING HISTORY.

In the years 1898-99 a new name was added to the list of Dublin football champions in the Geraldines, and 1900 again saw the rise of the Isles of the Sea. Incidentally, I should mention that two members of the "Daily Independent" staff, Mr. "Joe" Whelan, and the late Mr. J. Duggan took a great interest in the Ringsend combination.

The Geraldines made history by winning the 1898 and '99 All-Ireland Finals defeating Waterford and Cork.

The Isles won the 1901 All-Ireland Final, defeating the London-Irish. The Bray Emmets came on the horizon in 1901 by winning the Dublin Championship of that year, and later winning the Leinster and All-Ireland Finals of 1902.

We next hear of the Keatings, who won the 1903 Co. Championship, to be followed by the Kickhams, who created a record by winning four successive Co. Championships (1904-07). Defeated by Kerry in the 1904 All-Ireland Final, they atoned for this by defeating Cork in the 1906 and 1907 All-Irelands.

We pass on to 1908, and we again see the Geraldines champions of the Co. and All-Ireland champions as well. The five following years, 1909-10, 11, 12, 13, saw Keatings, Geraldines, Keatings, Kickhams, and Parnells Co. Champions in succession.

The four subsequent years found Geraldines winning the 1914-15 Co. Championship, Parnells won the 1916 Championship, and Geraldines annexed the 1917 Championship.

The years from 1909 to 1919 were blank years for Dublin in the All-Ireland Championship.

A GREAT PERIOD.

1918 saw the rise of the famous O'Tooles, who captured the 1918, '19, '20 Co. Championships. They were beaten by Tipperary in the 1920 All-Ireland Final. The year 1921 found new Co. Champions in the St. Marys, who hailed from the same district as the O'Tooles, and they followed their Co. success by defeating Mayo in the All-Ireland Final.

The O'Tooles again came into the picture with a vengeance, as they won five Co. Championships five years in succession—1922-26. In addition they won the All-Ireland Finals of 1922 and 1923, beating Galway and Kerry, but they went down before Kerry in the 1924 Final.

The Garda won the 1927 Championship, and then we have O'Tooles and Garda winning the 1928 and '29 Championships. This brings us down to 1930, when a new name, St. Josephs, was added to the long roll of Co. Champions.

The O'Tooles came into the picture again the following year, and the Erin's Hope, from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, won the 1932 Championship, repeating the performance of their predecessors of the same name 45 years earlier. Last year's Championship was won by Garda.

Of the 46 All-Ireland football finals played since the inauguration of the Championship in 1887 Dublin heads the

A Dublin All-Ireland Team

The Dublin team which won the All-Ireland Hurling Championship in 1920, defeating Cork by 4 goals 9 points to 4 goals 3 points. Names of players:—Bob Mockler (captain), M. Hayes, M. Neville, T. Moore, T. Hayes, J. Cleary, E. Tobin, F. Doherty, James Walsh, T. Daly (goal), F. Burke, J. J. Callanan, Joe Phelan, John Ryan, J. Clune.

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DUBLIN'S LEADING PART

SUPERB FOOTBALL RECORD

(Continued From Previous Page.)

list with 14 wins to its credit, with Kerry second with 11 wins. Dublin has not been so fortunate in the All-Ireland hurling finals, as it has only five wins to its credit, while they have won 20 Leinster Provincial Football Championship finals and 16 Leinster hurling finals. In the past hurling has not been developed in Dublin as well as one would wish.

THE SCHOOLS' LEAGUE.

It is true that in the early days of the old Dublin Schools' League during the years 1905-'06 an earnest effort was made by a band of willing workers, with Father O'Flanagan, C.C., and the late Mr. Tom Heasey at its head, to foster hurling amongst the youth attending city schools, and the Kevin H.C., mainly composed of students attending Synge St. C.B. Schools, owe their origin to the work of that body. A couple of them have now made their way to All-Ireland honours, including "Charley" McMahon.

Then we had the Eoghan Ruadh H.C. in later years, practically all Dublin-born hurlers from Aughrim St. district, who have as their mentor Father Pat O'Flanagan.

During the past few years another effort has been made to revive hurling amongst the youth attending the Primary schools in the city, and I have every reason to hope that it will prove successful. A visit to the Gaelic grounds on the Fifteen Acres on Saturday afternoons, when the Primary Schools League games are being played will bear out this hope. Both the present Minor Board and the Primary Schools League, in addition to the C.B. Schools League, are doing invaluable work in fostering Gaelic games in Dublin, and it may not be out of place here to express the hope that the day will come that will see a team of Dublin-born hurlers lining out for All-Ireland honours. It has been done in football, and it can also be done in hurling.

The G.A.A. in Dublin has passed through many vicissitudes. Many of the old school will recall the lean years of 1898 and 1899, and the efforts made to inaugurate Junior Hurling and Football Leagues. Those Leagues give the Association a new lease of life in Dublin, and the success that has followed the Association since is mainly due to the work of these bodies. Much yet remains to be accomplished, but earnestness and co-operation on the part of all its members will help to more strongly entrench the Association in "the City of the Pale."

TRIBUTE TO PIONEERS.

It is fitting that I should pay a tribute to those pioneers of the G.A.A. in Dublin who kept the Association alive during the years of its infancy. Almost all of the "old guard" that rallied round the Association in Dublin in those far off years have passed away. But many who "blazed the trail" of the pioneers of the "eighties" into the "nineties" are still happily with us. I can recall several of them who are to be met with at Croke Park on the occasion of big matches.

First we have "Jim" McEvoy, that "young-old" Gael, now President of the Young Ireland H.C., who is as youthful to-day as when he played Shinty with the old Celtics, or indulged in a bout of wrestling in the Park. Then we have Hugh McCarthy and Joe Kenny, who filled the positions of Chairman and Secretary of the old Co. Dublin Board when that body held its weekly meetings at Ormond Quay, through the courtesy of Mr. Patrick Cullen, of the old Faughs. This genial son of Tipperary who did a man's share for the G.A.A. in Dublin is, we are glad to say, still to the good in the heart of the "Golden Vale."

Then we have Dan Woods, now in exile somewhere in Britain. There are many others, too. The present generation of Dublin Gaels owe much to these men who kept the flag of the Association flying in face of innumerable difficulties.

"O."

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A LINK WITH PADRAIG PEARSE

FERMANAGH

Chairman—Rev. J. Clancy, C.C.
Secretary—Mr. T. Cox, 3 Belmore St., Enniskillen.
Colours—White and Green.

SOME time appears to have elapsed, after the formation of the G.A.A. in 1884, before it appeared in Fermanagh. It was about the year 1888 that inter-club football was first played in the county. At this time, and for many years afterwards, the Association had not progressed beyond the club stage. There was no actual competitions played. Matches were often arranged at fairs or markets, and would take place on the following Sunday afternoon.

The honour of having the first club must go to Newtownbutler with their famous "First Fermanaghs." Immediately afterwards we hear of the "Knockninny John Mitchels," the "Lisnaskea Emmets," the "Rosslea Faugh a' Ballaghs," and the "Loughside Leaders," who seem to have come from the Aughalurcher side of Lisnaskea.

Old men of the present day have clear recollections of stirring matches in those bygone days. Perhaps the best remembered are a pair of fixtures—home and away—between Newtownbutler First Fermanaghs and Knockninny John Mitchels. These matches took place about 1889. Newtownbutler won both. Each team was made up of twenty-one players.

Wonderful stories are yet told of these matches, and of several others that took place during the remaining years of the last century. The present-day mode of travelling brings back memories of a very different state of affairs to these old footballers. No story of a match is complete without the history of the journey there and home. Teams went across country in those days; sometimes a sail on Lough Erne would shorten their journey considerably. A walk of ten or twelve miles was thought very little of.

ENNISKILLEN'S LEAD.

The distance clubs had to travel seems to have been a great drawback to the game, for about the beginning of the present century there seems to have been little or no activities in G.A.A. circles in the county. Greater interest throughout the country was felt in Fermanagh. In the year 1901 there were 300 affiliated clubs, with a membership of over 20,000 in the country. The fact that none of these was from Fermanagh was discussed at meetings of several national-minded bodies in Enniskillen and the surrounding districts.

Still is was not until October, 1902, that any definite move was made. This came from the juvenile branch of the Irish National Foresters, Enniskillen. They decided to form a hurling club. This was the first appearance of the national pastimes in the island town.

This club seems not to have survived the hostile atmosphere into which it was born, and again we find a dearth of clubs in the county Still their work was not altogether in vain, for in 1903 a real live hurling club was formed. Tomas de Faoite was the prime-mover in its formation, and under his care it progressed. It was due to his efforts that Fermanagh had their first inter-county hurling match.

This match took place at Enniskillen between Enniskillen O'Neills and the Manorhamilton Shamrocks. Mr. P. O'Sullivan was referee. The home team won by 1 goal 5 points to 1 point for the visitors.

A list of the Fermanagh team brings back many memories. They were:—W. Jones, T. Whyte, M. Sweeney, J. Smith (3), T. MacManus, J. MacManus, J. Carleton, C. MacKeown, J. Nethercott, W. Hanly, M. D. Ward, R. A. Whyte, J. Fox, O. Corrigan, and W. Murphy.

Four weeks later the return match was played at Manorhamilton, whose representatives won on this occasion.

No attempt had yet been made to establish a County Committee. Clubs were springing up all over the county, and some of them were affiliated direct to the Ulster Council. In 1904, Fermanagh hurlers were drawn against Tyrone in the Ulster Championship. Hurling during this year became very popular in the county, and on June 26, 1904, we find over 1,000 spectators at Ashwoods to witness a match between the local Maguires and the Enniskillen O'Neills. Victory went to the homesters, but the O'Neills finished their day well by defeating the Belnaleck Art Mac Morroughs in a football match.

PADRAIG PEARSE.

FIRST COUNTY BOARD.

Efforts to form a Co. Committee resulted in a meeting being held on July 4, 1904. There were present on that occasion:—Messrs. J. Hackett, J. Flanagan, J. Calligan, J. MacManus, R. Corrigan, J. Owens, J. Grimes, T. MacManus, C. MacKeown, M. Sweeney, T. Whyte, R. A. Whyte, and W. J. Nethercot.

Mr. R. A. Whyte was appointed Chairman; Mr. J. Flanagan, Vice-Chairman; and Mr. R. Corrigan, Secretary.

The formation of the County Committee gave impetus to the game in the county. The first official championship was that of 1904. Donagh Sons of Erin reappeared and played Teemore Shamrocks in one of the first matches of the competition. The Shamrocks had a number of the old John Mitchels in their team. Four teams competed. Lisnaskea Emmets and the Loughside Leaguers, although in existence at this time, did not take part in the championship.

Teemore won Fermanagh's first football championship, and the Enniskillen team won the first hurling championship.

This table shows the manner in which the championship was carried out:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Teemore Shamrocks	6	5	1	0	37	13	10
Belnaleck Art MacM.	6	3	2	1	21	13	7
Donagh Sons of Erin	6	2	3	1	26	26	5
Enniskillen O'Neills	6	1	5	0	14	46	2

Fermanagh made their first appearance at [illegible] on November 27, 1904. It was held in the Forester's Hall, Armagh. At this time Mr. M. V. Nolan, Tyrone, was President, and Mr. Geo. Martin, Belfast, was Secretary. Clubs in the province had increased from 38 to 67 during the year.

During 1905 the Association gained ground rapidly in the county. On January 14 of that year Fermanagh played their first football championship match against Monaghan at Enniskillen. Fermanagh made a good show, as they were only defeated by 4 points to 1 point. The team consisted of 17 players, who were—E. McGurrin, F. Curry, M. Martin, B. Kelly, T. Clarke, T. P. Clarke, J. Martin, P. Sheehan, J. McCarthy, C. Murphy, N. Corrigan, H. Murphy, N. J. Corrigan, J. Reilly, M. McManus, G. Wilson, and P. Faulkner. The previous year's football and hurling champions again took the 1905 honours. There were eight clubs playing football, and four hurling in the championships.

In 1906 the National Pastimes had become so popular in the county that we find the Irish Federation of Association Football making a grant of £50 to "combat Gaelic Football in the Fermanagh Area." Towards the end of this year a notable event took place in the Gaelic history of Enniskillen and Fermanagh. On October 26, 1906, the late Mr. P. H. Pearse gave a lecture in Enniskillen at the request of the local Gaels. There are some in Ireland yet who may benefit by reading what Pearse thought of those who ape the foreigner.

"If the Irish continue to imitate the English," said Pearse on that occasion, "they might succeed in becoming un-Irish, but they would never become English." And again he said, "If Irishmen must imitate Englishmen let them imitate them by being patriotic." Towards the end of his lecture he sorrowfully remarked: "Many of our people are ashamed not merely of their Irish games, their Irish songs, their Irish names, but of their Irish fathers and mothers." Almost ten years later Pearse gave his life so that these people he alluded to might become proud of their nationality.

A PERIOD OF VIGOUR.

The amount of hard work that was expended in organising the county was well repaid. From 1906 right down till 1921 the games, both hurling and football, flourished. Teemore Shamrocks, with very few exceptions, held the football championship from their first win in 1904. The Enniskillen club held the same record in the hurling arena.

Except on very rare occasions Fermanagh did not make much history with their inter-county victories, but this did not prevent them turning up year after year to compete in the provincial hurling and football championships.

MR. B. C. FAY, President of the Ulster Council.

The eventful years of 1918, '19, '20, and '21 had varied effects on the Association in the county. People, as they became more national-minded, began to see their duty as regards our national pastimes. Extinct clubs came to life again, and others were established in areas that up till this time were barren of G.A.A. sympathies.

In spite of this influx all was not well with the Association. It was impossible for the powers that were to differentiate between the G.A.A. and other national movements of the time. Football and hurling meetings were frequently raided; at times some of the members were arrested. Occasionally matches were stopped, and the spectators scattered. Therefore it was impossible to make much headway with the competitions. Combined with these difficulties was the fact that the youth of the county were finding vent for their patriotism in a more pronounced manner than by playing football.

THE DARK DAYS.

Then came the dark days of 1922. Membership of the G.A.A. in those days was enough to qualify a person for a period in one of the many up-to-date resting-places provided by a thoughtful Belfast Government. Many members of the Association were arrested; others had to leave home to prevent the same fate befalling them. So it is not surprising that 1922, and '23 found Fermanagh without a Co. Committee. Some clubs managed to hold together in a semi-dormant manner, but it was not until early in 1924 that a move was made to reorganise the county.

On March 9 of 1924 a meeting was held in Lisnaskea. Mr. B. C. Fay, Secretary of the Ulster Council, presided. Clubs from Lisnaskea, Teemore, Drumlane, Newtownbutler, Donagh, Wattlebridge, Cleenish, Killyrover, Kinawley Derrylin, Enniskillen, and Irvinestown were represented. Mr. T. P. Clarke, Teemore, was elected to the Chair, and Mr. C. Smyth, Enniskillen, was appointed as Secretary.

Since then the organisation in the county has gone forward by leaps and bounds. The Fermanagh County Team is no longer considered one of the weakest in the province, but is regarded as one of the best in the country.

The county won its first inter-county trophy in the year 1930, when it won the Most Rev. Dr. McKenna Cup. The competition in this year was confined to the weak counties of the province. But in 1933 we have Fermanagh regaining this coveted trophy after defeating Tyrone, Armagh, and Monaghan in a first-class competition.

One of the dark spots in the recent history of the county is that there has been no hurling championship in the county since the reorganisation. Newtownbutler has again led the way in this matter. A hurling club has been in existence there for the past two years, but they had no opposition. This will not be the case this year, as there are signs of at least two more hurling clubs coming forward.

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CUSACK'S INTEREST IN THE COUNTY

GALWAY

Chairman—Rev. J. O'Dea, B.A.

Secretary—Mr. M. O'Regan, Loughrea.

Colours—Green and White.

IT is generally known to-day that half a century ago Michael Cusack, the founder of the G.A.A., took a special interest in County Galway, in its work for athletics and for the Irish language, and sought his first patrons for the G.A.A. from the Diocese of Clonfert.

It came about in this wise. In 1879, or thereabouts, a Loughrea youth had left St. Joseph's School, Clondalkin, for his vacation. Instead of returning to his home he spent his holidays with some friends in Dublin, and amongst these was a well-known authority upon the Gaelic movement and upon Irish, Mr. Michael Flanagan, who maintained a popular hostelry, and took a keen interest in the budding youth.

To Flanagan's house every day came a teacher, whose passion in life was to promote the practice of Gaelic games, to make Irish the spoken tongue of the people. That teacher was Michael Cusack. The youth was Mr. William Duffy, who for eight years was secretary of the Co. Galway Board of the G.A.A., and who in 1899 was elected member of Parliament for South Galway. The boy was inspired by the enthusiasm of Michael Cusack, who wore the courtly old kneebreeches of his fathers, and carried a blackthorn stick.

The friendship thus begun continued for many years. Later, when the youth had left school, Cusack wrote to him asking him if he would organise a deputation to interview the Most Rev. Dr. Duggan, the famous Bishop of Clonfert, with a view to obtaining the consent of the aged prelate to become the first patron of the new Association. Knowing the Bishop (in whose Palace the Plan of Campaign Funds had been collected by representatives of the National Executive of the Land League) to be a friend of the Irish people, three young men—Mr. J. P. McCarthy, Mr. Peter Sweeney, and Mr. Duffy—approached him without hesitation.

THE BISHOP'S SUGGESTION.

"I am now an old man," said Dr. Duggan, "and, whilst I wish a fine, manly national movement like this every success, and will do anything I can during my remaining years to promote that success, I feel that one younger than myself would fulfil the position better. There is in the Archdiocese of Cashel a fine Gael, young, vigorous, and energetic, Dr. Croke, and I suggest to the heads of your organisation that they could not do better than ask him to become its first patron."

I have before me a letter which Mr. Cusack, then honorary secretary of the G.A.A., wrote to the secretary of the County Galway Board some years later. It is addressed from 4 Gardiner's Place, Dublin, May 4, 1886, is written on Swiftbrook notepaper, and is in the beautiful script that seems to be forgotten to-day. Unfortunately, many other letters from the same hand were destroyed during the Anglo-Irish conflict.

Cusack writes in reply to a "spirited and patriotic communication," as he describes it, in regard to a conflict between rival clubs in Athenry: "There is a most flourishing branch of the G.A.A. in Athenry," he says. "Mr. P. C. Kelly is captain. The National League has started another branch, but I have neither power nor authority to recognise it. Mr. Davin's opinion is that my colleague, Mr. Wyse Power, and myself should write to the captain of the branch which took the field first and ask him whether it is desirable that another branch should be established in the one parish. If Mr. Kelly answers, 'Yes,' I have no doubt the Executive will gladly recognise the new branch, and accept the affiliation fees which I have received. Should Mr. Kelly, however, express himself satisfied that our movement is in a sufficiently flourishing condition in Athenry, and that it does not stand in need of another prop, the matter drops for the present, and those who desire to abide by the recommendation of the Thurles meeting can hardly play the Athenry Branch of the National League."

And, having thus sought fairly to dispose of a difficult situation, which almost resulted in a minor civil war in Athenry for some months, Cusack adds: "May I venture to express a hope that you are endeavouring to the best of your abilities to preserve the Irish Language?"

ATHLETICS AND GAMES.

County Galway and the Province to which it belongs were veritable cock-pits of the Land War. Nevertheless, the older folks still remember these earlier days when they travelled many miles on side-cars and on the old long car to athletic meetings. Even in the remoter parts of the country parish athletic contests were not infrequent. To these the political bands came, and there were foot races, pony races, high and long jumps, and, perhaps most exciting of all, races on the high ordinary bicycle, which was then possessed by a few select and daring spirits who occasionally careered at eight miles an hour, or much less, along the highways amidst the admiration or the imprecations of their fellows.

As for games, apart from coursing, hunting and shooting, the resourcefulness of the youth of Ireland was never at a loss. Whilst schoolboys had their peg-tops, their cap and ball and a hundred other games of skill, parish often fought parish in an all-in hurling contest played with a hack-shaft and a leather ball not far different from that which we know to-day. Parish football was frequently played along similar lines, the victors being those who took the ball farthest into the losers' domain.

FIRST BOOK OF RULES.

Inter-provincial contests in purely Gaelic games were practically unknown. There were no Gaelic clubs as such, except in a few parishes whose inhabitants were in advance of their time.

It is on record, however, that long before the Gaelic Atheltic Association became a living force in the country the first book of rules ever printed for the modern game of hurling was provided by the Killimor Hurling Club, in East Galway, which had been developed under the inspiration of the late Paddy Larkin, of Kiltormer. Camans made from seasoned ash were used by this club, and many others had, indeed, discarded the pick-shaft for the more facile weapon which, if somewhat cruder and nearly always home-made, was the counterpart of the hurley in use to-day.

When the inspiration of Cusack began to transfuse the country from end to end, there was, perhaps, no part of Ireland which responded with such enthusiasm as the Co. Galway. Clubs sprang up everywhere, and the modest affiliation fee of 14s. 6d. was sent in from every parish in the county. The G.A.A., whilst being strictly non-party, was, as it were, the youth division of the national movement.

A NOTED FENIAN.

In its earlier years in Co. Galway it was led by a noted old Fenian, the late Mr. P. J. Kelly, of Kilnadeema, Loughrea, whose son to-day occupies the position in the Irish Land Commission in the West formerly held by "Rutherford Mayne," the humorous Irish dramatist. P. J. had long walked the stage of public life in Co. Galway. Nowithstanding his fire-eating oratory—he had come through a bitter struggle for the land of his fathers—he was the most lovable of personalities, and, although he himself held strong political views, he never permitted these to obtrude upon the proceedings of the G.A.A. As its National President he managed by his inspiration, by the affection in which he was held and by his honest desire to give of his utmost for Irish games, to arouse enthusiastic support wherever he went.

In these days the G.A.A. had their delegates to the Conventions of the United Irish League, and in the heyday of David Sheehy, Dr. Tanner, Tom Mayne, Mat Kenny, and John Roche, these young men played many a vigorous part in the discussions—until it was wisely decided to divorce politics as such from national games.

INSPIRED TEMPERANCE.

It is on record that the advent of the G.A.A. into County Galway did more for temperance amongst young men than any movement that had preceded it, and that the spirit of friendly rivalry between parishes made for all-round improvement. Parochial barriers began to be broken down, and new interest was added to the lives of the young men, who were no longer mere spectators at infrequent athletic contests, but active participants in the national games.

Amongst those who held prominent positions in and maintained the movement in Co. Galway since these days were Mr. M. Shine, of Tuam, President of the County Galway Board and President of the Connacht Provincial Council; the late Mr. Willie Cannon, who was then Co. Board Secretary; Mr. Pat Larkin, Co.C., Kiltormer, who followed Mr. Shine, and whose county secretary was Mr. Paddy Finnerty, brother of Mr. Martin Finnerty, Co.C., who was for many years secretary of the East Galway Executive of the United Irish League, and was sent to prison as a "traverser" during the cattle-driving days.

Later Mr. George Nicholls, solicitor—now the County Registrar—took a prominent part in the movement, and established out of his own private purse a pipers' band in Galway. Mr. Nicholls became President, with Mr. Larry Lardner, of Athenry, who is still prominent in G.A.A. circles, as his secretary.

BLACK-AND-TANS OUTWITTED.

For four years the late Father Martin Broderick, a brother of Deputy Sean Broderick, Athenry, led the movement in Galway. Father Broderick really established Gaelic football in Ballinasloe; and his work for the Association is still remembered with gratitude. Mr. Stephen Jordan, now T.D. for the county, took a prominent part in the movement in these days, and is still known as a referee. Mr. T. Kenny, of Craughwell, held the presidency later, during the more stormy years, and the County Board continued to meet in Athenry in 1922, when it was often difficult to obtain a quorum.

During this time an extraordinary meeting of the Gaels of Galway was held in Athenry to see what could be done to train a first-class inter-provincial team. As a result of this effort the All-Ireland Hurling Championship was won by Galway at Croke Park on

Galway's Champion Team

GALWAY, ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS IN 1923.

GALWAY—*(Continued from Page 67)*

September 24, 1923, when the County defeated Limerick in the final by 7-3 against 4-5.

During the Anglo-Irish struggle and the subsequent civil war it was difficult to maintain the hurling and football clubs. On one occasion, however, the British forces found themselves outwitted at Athenry. There was a great hosting of Gaels for a series of matches. The field was surrounded by machine guns; but the contests were held notwithstanding in a field some miles outside the Town o' the Kings!

REDIVIVUS.

There was a revival in the county from 1922. Mr. James Nestor, Dunmore, followed Mr. T. Kenny as Co. Chairman; then came Mr. Ml. King of Galway, and then the Rev. James O'Dea, of St. Mary's, Galway, whose magnificent work for the G.A.A. since he took office is too well known to need recapitulation.

Owing to its remoteness and the economic stress in Connemara it has always been difficult to promote Gaelic games on an organised basis there. In 1912 special excursion trains were run from Athlone and all the available railway centres in Co. Galway to Clifden, where Kilconieran and Galway City met in hurling, and Athenry and Clifden in football.

Although the county has to-day eleven senior hurling teams and eleven senior football teams, with about one hundred and ten junior clubs and a School Hurling League in addition, Connemara still remains to be more thoroughly organised, and while there are a few junior hurling clubs in North Galway, there is no senior hurling in this division.

At the last annual meeting of the Co. Board, Father O'Dea said there was to-day a dearth of hurling talent in the county, a circumstance which he attributed to the fact that there are no good hurlers growing up at present. The growth of the game in the schools, which the Galway Co. Council and the Vocational Committees are doing all in their power to encourage, is one remedy.

Mr. Martin O'Regan, Loughrea, is secretary of the present Co. Board. Mr. John J. Gormley, Gort, is compiling an elaborate and detailed history of Gaelic athletic activities in the county for the past fifty years. Mr. Larry Lardner, Athenry, remains as treasurer of the County Board.

The chairman of the West Galway Board, which comprises all West Galway, including Connemara, is an old hurler, Mr. Eugene Kelly, Oranmore, Mr. Thos. O'Connor, Clarenbridge, being secretary. The East Galway Board is presided over by the Rev. T. Larkin, C.C., Portumna, Mr. John Whelan, Killimor, being secretary.

North Galway Board has Mr. P. Higgins, Kilkerrin, as its chairman, with Mr. P. Tyrrell, of the Caltra and Ahascragh Clubs, as its secretary. Mr. Jos. Stankard, Gort, is president of the South Galway Board, with Mr. John J. Gormley as secretary, and Mr. John Hardiman as assistant secretary.

Whilst football is coming on very well in Galway, there is a desire that the greatest of games should be placed on a sounder basis, and that old hurlers like Ignatius Harney, of Tynagh; King, Gill, and the others should be replaced by champions at least as good. **DESMOND SHANDON.**

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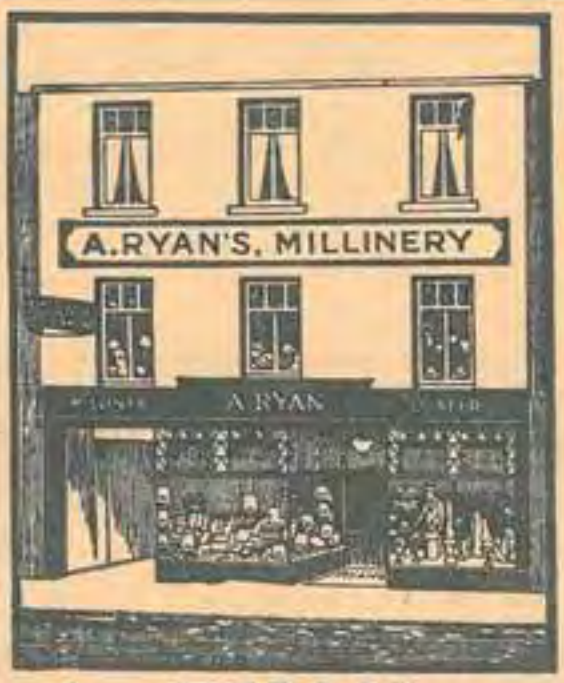

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Colours—Green and Gold.

By P. F.

KERRY has ever been a great sporting county. A Grand National winner, The Liberator, was bred near Tralee, and Bernard Dillon, the Gordon Richards of his day, was cradled in the same town. The late James Fitzgerald, another Tralee man, was handball champion of the world, while a colleague, Father Tom Jones, now parish priest of Glenbeigh, was national champion.

Ireland's last Waterloo winner, Guard's Brigade, was bred by Dr. Griffin at Killarney. Kerry has won more Irish Coursing Cups than any other county. Its beagles had won fame long before O'Connell's pack at Darrynane attracted the admiration of cross-Channel dog lovers.

Open country hurling and "parish to parish" football had been played from time immemorial. In the early 'eighties the Fenian tradition was strong in "The Kingdom." People then alive remembered vividly the Iveraghmen's march through a blizzard in the '67 Rising. So that when Cusack's clarion call resounded in the land in 1884, it re-echoed among the friendly mountains and valleys of Kerry and evoked ready response from its sons.

The pioneers of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Kerry were men nurtured in Fenian lore. Amongst them was Moore Stack, a fellow felon of Charles J. Kickham. His son, Austin, in the Gaelic arena and sterner fields, maintained the tradition in eventful years to come.

There was also the late Maurice Moynihan, a noted figure in the Land War. One of his sons is now Secretary to the Executive Council, and another is Private Secretary to the President. Those men and their fellow Land Leaguers rallied the country under the banner of the G.A.A.

FIRST BLOOD.

The new movement made wide appeal to a sporting people. It was not merely an athletic association; it was also Gaelic. But some looked askance upon it, and, like the infant Hercules, the G.A.A. was soon subjected to a test. In the summer of 1885 the Gaels organised a sports meeting for Tralee under their new Association. They were refused the use of Tralee Sportsfield, now the Austin Stack Park. The Gaels held their meeting at an alternative venue. Thousands of people, many bearing green branches, and headed by bands, marched through the town to the national fixture, where the attendance reached 10,000. An opposition sports in the Sports Field proved a dismal failure.

Since those days the G.A.A. in Kerry has encountered no opposition. It has increased in strength. There is now scarcely a parish in the county which has not either a football, hurling, or athletic club affiliated with the body founded by Cusack.

In the early days of the organisation the number of clubs was small. Hurling flourished in the North Kerry Plain, from Tralee to the Shannon. It was also favoured in the Kenmare district. These areas still retain their early characteristics. In the remaining and greater portion of the county football has ever been first choice. Of the pioneer hurling clubs, Ballyduff won fame by winning All-Ireland honours from Wexford in 1891.

THE LAUNE RANGERS.

The most notable of the early clubs was the Laune Rangers of Killorglin. Led by their captain, the late J. P. O'Sullivan, all-round athletic champion of Ireland (father of Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan), the Rangers dominated Kerry football from 1887 to 1890. Their feats are recalled to this day. Though the men from the Laune never won All-Ireland honours, they exercised a profound influence on Gaelic games in Kerry, and doubtless changed the county largely from the caman to the kicking code.

Ballymacelligott, near Tralee, was the first team to check the Rangers' football supremacy. Cahirciveen quickly followed, then Killarney, and later Tralee. Tralee and Killarney rivalry lasted for many years, and laid the foundation of Kerry's football prowess. Both areas produced footballers of the highest rank, whose names are recalled wherever the game is played.

Eugene O'Sullivan, present Chairman of Killarney Urban Council, captained the Lakeside team for some years. Later came the late Dick Fitzgerald, doyen of Gaelic forwards; Dan McCarthy, the great high fielder; Con Murphy, the goalman; Paddy Dillon, and others. Tralee sent out Austin Stack, the Gorman Brothers—a most scientific pair—Maurice McCarthy, the precursors of Sheehy, Barrett, and a host of modern players.

TRALEE'S DOMINANCE.

Tralee has held sway in Kerry football for the past dozen years. The town is divided into three teams—Rock Street Austin Stacks; Boherbee John Mitchells; and Strand Street O'Rahillys. These teams have won the county championship in turn. They form the backbone of the County Fifteen, though great players like Brosnan, Stack, Russell, Walsh, and O'Sullivan hail from the other districts. In the past Kerry has got its forwards from the streets, its backs and midfield men from the land. True to their old traditions, North Kerry village teams are latterly in the ascendant in hurling.

With the stoppage of emigration there hase been an increase in the number of hurling and football clubs. Over sixty were affiliated last year. The county is divided into five districts, each of which conducts its own league. Under a recent system only six selected teams compete in the Senior Co. Football Championship. There are also junior and intermediate competitions.

A newly-established Hurling Board caters exclusively for that game. There

Kerry's 1914 Champions

KERRY 1914 ALL-IRELAND TEAM.—The late Dick Fitzgerald is in the centre of back row.

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KERRY

(Continued from previous page.)

has been an improvement in the standard, and hopes are entertained that Kerry will win back its old-time hurling renown.

IRISH-SPEAKING LEAGUE.

Last year an Irish-speaking Football League, comprising six teams, was formed in the extreme end of the Dingle Peninsula. This Gaeltacht selection won the Co. Intermediate Championship, and spoke Irish only on the field of play. This must be an unique performance.

CON MURPHY
(Kerry)

Kerry is particularly fortunate in the fact that its schools and colleges play Gaelic games exclusively. The Diocesan Seminary, Presentation Monastery, Killarney; St. Michael's College, Listowel; Jeffers' Institute, Tralee; Killorglin Intermediate Schools, and the Christian Brothers' Schools of Tralee, Dingle, and Cahersiveen, all have football teams. A magnificent silver cup was presented by the late Most Rev. Dr. O'Sullivan, Bishop of Kerry, for competition between the senior football teams of the schools. A similar trophy was given by Mr. Howard S. Harrington, Dunloe Castle, Killarney, for juniors. These competitions are the nurseries of Kerry's minor All-Ireland players.

In the matter of grounds the county is well served. The Austin Stack Memorial Park, Tralee, is the property of the Gaels of the county. It has lately been enlarged, fitted with stand, and is one of the finest pitches in the South. Work is proceeding on the Fitzgerald Memorial Park at Killarney, which will be amongst the best in Ireland. Listowel has a fine enclosure, and there are good sportsfields also at Dingle, Cahersiveen, and other centres. Kenmare recently acquired a field from the Land Commission.

Steps are far advanced for the erection of a handball alley at Tralee, and this popular pastime should soon be a feature of Kerry's athletic activity.

The Association in Kerry is virile. Like good wine it improves with the years. Its strength is due to the consistent public support it has received down through the years since the attempted boycott of 1885. That strength is always demonstrated when the county figures in an All-Ireland Football Final. Six trains are necessary to convey the Kerry followers. They leave, in some instances, at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning. With this great public enthusiasm there is little fear of the future in Kerry for the Gaelic Athletic Association.

OTHER KERRY ANNOUNCEMENTS ON PAGE 72.

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An Interesting Group

From left: Michael Hasset, Dungarvan (now of Bridgetown, Co. Wexford); the late Dan Fraher, Dungarvan; T. Phelan, Mullinahone), and Mr. T. F. Kiely.

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FOOTBALL'S GREATEST STYLISTS

KILDARE

Chairman—Mr. J. MacDonald.
Secretary—Mr. T. P. Clarke, Riverside, Newbridge.
Colours—All White.

1886—Late in 1886, when a small group of enthusiastic athletes came together to form a branch of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Kildare, little did they think that they were laying the foundation on which was raised the present successful county organisation, and they cannot have visualised the great name that Kildare would have in Gaelic football in the years before them.

All those, with one or two exceptions, who were present at that meeting have since gone to their reward. The late Dr. Smith, of Naas; the late S. J. Brown, solr., Naas, and P. Dowling, Kilcullen, were appointed Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively, at this meeting.

1887—Active operations were started when it was decided to run the County Championship in 1887, and, although many teams did not enter, the competition attracted the youth of the county, and the patronage of the public gave great encouragement to those in charge.

The first official match was played at The Knocks, Naas, and on the throw-in it is recorded that the ball was secured and kicked by the late S. J. Brown, solicitor, Naas.

1888—From the start it was seen that, of all the teams entered, Clane was the most apt, and they easily secured the Championship, and the honour of being first champions of Kildare. They repeated their success in 1888, but a new team with great ambition was rising in the Mountrice district of Monasterevan, known then and since as "The Blunts," and in a memorable match they won the laurels from Clane in the final of 1889. Progress continued each year, greater interest being shown, the honours passing from Mountrice to Monasterevan, and thence to Clane.

A SAD INCIDENT.

1893—The enthusiasm of the footballers and the increased patronage was helping to consolidate the Association into a virile force for the development of the youth of the county, when a sad incident occurred in a match in the 1892 championship which was being played in the summer of 1893. At Kildare town a player received injuries from which he succumbed a few days later. The match, though played in a friendly spirit, was vigorous, and the officers of the law in those days attempted to use the tragedy as a reason for suppressing the games—on which they never looked with favour. This unhappy incident cast a gloom over those connected with the Association, and the interest of players and followers waned to such an extent that the championships of 1893 and 1894 were abandoned.

1895—Interest, however, was not dead, and in 1895 a new start was made, but the popularity of the games was not as heretofore, some years being allowed to pass in which no championships were played, 1898 and 1899 being unfruitful years.

1900—By the beginning of the century the effects of the tragedy had worn away, and a new generation, particularly in the towns, had arisen to whom outdoor recreation was a necessity. From this time on the Association in the county made continued progress. Clane had won any championship that had been played since 1895, but in 1902 and 1903 that supremacy was challenged by Roseberry—a team that has written its name largely across Kildare G.A.A. history.

THE MOST FAMOUS OF FINALS.

1903—The appearance of the All-Whites against Kerry in the 1903 All-Ireland Championship, when Kerry won after three matches, was the greatest factor in the uprising of Kildare, and when the 1905 championship came our way it put a seal on our reputation as first-class footballers. During those years was evolved that great style of football for which Kildare is noted. They were the first to introduce hand-passing, and the raising of the ball with the toe was first practised and perfected by M. Kennedy, of Roseberry.

Those who witnessed the 1905 final realised that, as a team, Kildare were superior to any other team in Ireland, but referees in those days were not as unprejudiced as they are to-day, with the result that for some years the Kildare teams suffered at the hands of incompetent referees. This had a dampening effect on the enthusiasm of those at home, and when other county teams arose to take the place which was occupied by Kildare, interest at home grew less and less.

1914—At the beginning of the Great War in 1914 our fortunes had sunk so low that in the first round of the championship we were beaten by a county team which had no football history behind it. Matters were moving, however, in the county. More clubs were being affiliated, and the personnel of the County Committee was completely changed.

Hitherto representatives of clubs on the County Committee were advanced in years, their outlook was narrow, and they lacked initiative. But the new element had youth and initiative, and insisted upon better business methods in the keeping of accounts, and discipline and punctuality on the field. Irregularities had been tolerated which were causing injury to the Association. Within a few years the Association was on a sound and businesslike basis.

BACK TO FRONT RANK.

1919—In the meantime the matches had been speeded up, and more interest taken in the Junior clubs. The results of these improvements were apparent early. Our county Senior team came more into the public eye, and in 1919 the All-Whites defeated Galway, winning the All-Ireland Championship in convincing style. Those who attended that match can still remember the brilliant display given by Kildare when such stars as Larry Stanley, J. Connor, Paul Doyle, and M. Buckley were in their heyday. But the apple of discord was thrown amongst us, causing a division in our ranks, from which we did not recover until 1924.

A Kildare player (white) in possession being challenged by a Cavan man in the 1931 All-Ireland Semi-final, which Kildare won, at Cavan.

1926—If our home troubles were detrimental to the success of our county teams in the Championships, they did not interfere with the financial improvement of the county. The interest of our followers in the local matches was unabated, and gradually the county funds were improved. In the Junior inter-county contests many promising players were seen, and in 1925 the All-Whites again became a great factor in the Leinster Championships owing to the promotion of many of these Junior players to Senior ranks.

The fortunes of Kildare from 1926 to the present date are in the memory of everyone. Their exhibitions against Kerry have been witnessed by one of the greatest concourses that ever assembled at a Gaelic match, and they hold the record, with Wexford, of having won the Provincial Championship six years in succession, a record held by none other in all Ireland.

The defeat of Kildare in 1932 and 1933 was caused by the failure of those in charge to introduce promising youths in the places of players who had been showing the strain of years. But this is only a temporary eclipse. With ample funds at our disposal, and a young and vigorous combination, we face the future with confidence, knowing that the great support given us by the Gaels at home and in Ireland has not been misplaced, and that our star is again in the ascendant.

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KILKENNY

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Colours—Black and Amber.

WHEN, 50 golden years ago, the banner of the Gaelic Athletic Association was unfurled by Michael Cusack, one of the first counties to rally to it was Kilkenny. From that time to the present Kilkenny has never ceased to occupy a foremost place in the massed ranks of the Gaels. It inherited a fine Gaelic tradition, and that tradition it has maintained and handed down to the present day.

Hurling is our premier National game, and it is as a great hurling county that Kilkenny has built up its magnificent reputation. The names of the teams that were pre-eminent in the hurling arena are as familiar as household words—Tullaroan, Mooncoin, Threecastles, and Erin's Own. Many a time and oft premier All-Ireland hurling championships have been won by the combined representatives of these teams. Detailed particulars will be found in other pages of this publication.

Kilkenny was never very prominent in the football arena; the game never made any such appeal to the Gaels of the county as hurling did. There were, however, a few notable Kilkenny football teams to which I shall later refer.

The modern history of the G.A.A. movement in County Kilkenny is too well-known to need any special reference from me. Besides, I could not write about it with any degree of authority.

"Back to the past, though the thought brngs woe,
My memory ever glides;
I mourn for the days, long, long ago,
The days of the Barmecides."

I should like, therefore, to dwell on the pioneer days of the G.A.A. movement in Kilkenny, and to refer to the personalities associated with it; most of them, unhappily, are no longer with us, but

"There are still some few remaining
To remind us of the past."

FATHER OF A FAMOUS CAPTAIN.

In writing about those far-off days my memory has been refreshed by recent conversations with my dear old friend, Harry Meagher of Tullaroan, himself a survival of the earliest days of the Gaelic Athletic movement, and father of the famous "Lory" Meagher, who has made hurling history in recent years.

The first President of the Kilkenny Executive of the G.A.A. was the late P. J. O'Keeffe, afterwards Borough Treasurer, and one of the founders of the "Kilkenny People." The Secretary was Stephen Dunleavy, now of New York, where he has attained distinction as a journalist of outstanding qualities, and has never lost his interest in the G.A.A., or for that matter in Irish ideals in the widest sense.

I do not pretend to be able to give anything like an exhaustive list of the men in the city or county who well and truly laid the foundations of the G.A.A. in Kilkenny, but some names immediately occur to me in addition to those of Mr. J. O'Keeffe, Stephen Dunleavy, and Harry Meagher.

Foremost amongst them is the name of the late Alderman James Nowlan, a life-long supporter of the G.A.A., of which he was for twenty years National President. It is a fitting tribute to his memory that the splendid park opened some years ago in Kilkenny, where hurling, football, and camogie are now played, should be associated with his name.

GAELS OF THE EARLY DAYS.

Prominent amongst the early Gaels in Kilkenny were Alderman Joe Purcell, who succeeded O'Keeffe as Chairman of the Executive; Dick De Loughry, father of the late Alderman Peter De Loughry, T.D.; Pat Geary, father of Mr. Frank Geary, assistant Editor of the "Irish Independent"; Pierse Wall, and Lar. Neary. All those fine old Gaels have long since passed to their reward.

In the county I can recall the names of Jim Grace of Brabstown, Tullaroan, who is still happily amongst us and has never lost his interest in the movement he served so well in his earlier years; Tom Harrington of Urlingford who accompained the first G.A.A. American Invasion team; Michael Shelly, James Shelly and James Hearne of Callan; James Grace and Dick Ryan (the latter still alive and well, now living in London) of Thomastown; Walter Coady of Castlecomer, father of Liam MacOda, the present energetic secretary of the Kilkenny County Board, G.A.A. Mr. Coady succeeded in that position Mr. Dan O'Connell than whom the G.A.A. never had a more enthusiastic supporter. Although relinquishing the secretaryship Mr. O'Connell continues to act as manager of the teams in training for big matches and their success is in no small degree due to his experience, tact, and thorough knowledge of form.

I think the Fogarty brothers and the Curran brothers of Castlecomer were also associated with the movement but perhaps not so prominently.

This does not profess to be anything like a complete list; there are necessarily many omissions from it due to

(Continued on Page 75.)

A Famous Kilkenny Team

The Kilkenny team that won the All-Ireland Hurling Championship in 1911-'12-'13.
Back Row: Dr. P. Grace, J. Power (goal), R. Walsh, J. Rochford, D. Brennan, Dr. J. J. Brennan, M. Gargan.
Middle Row: R. Grace, R. Doherty, J. Keoghan, S. Walton (capt.), P. Lanigan, J. Kelly, P. Clohosey, D. Kennedy. Front Row: R. Doyle, M. Doyle, E. Doyle, Dr. T. McCormack.

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KILKENNY
(Continued from Page 74.)

defects of memory after such a long period

THE DAYS OF THE SPLIT.

It was, I suppose, inevitable that after a time political cleavages should have made themselves felt in the G.A.A. movement in Ireland. In point of fact there was a big split in the ranks and two rival Associations were formed. One of them of which, if I remember rightly, Maurice Davin was the President, might be regarded as the constitutional Association

The other, I think, might be called the Fenian Association which elected as its President Mr. Edward Bennett, chairman or clerk of the Ennis Board of Guardians, a Protestant Nationalist. The split, of course, affected the movement in Kilkenny. Many in the city, including O'Keeffe, Donleavy, and Geary, took the Fenian side, which also had several adherents in the county. Each section of the Association had its own official organ, both published in Dublin. Stephen Donleavy was Editor of the Fenian publication and, as might be expected from him, he made the pace very hot.

Amongst the leaders of this section were Pat Hoctor of Nenagh who died some time ago in London; Maurice Moynihan of Tralee, father of Mr. Sean Moynihan, secretary of the Executive Council; P. N. Fitzgerald of Cork, a prominent Fenian; P. W. Nally of Mayo, also a prominent Fenian and splendid type of athlete who died in Mountjoy Jail on the eve of his release after undergoing a sentence of 10 years' imprisonment for treason-felony. There were, of course, many others associated with this side of the G.A.A. whose names I cannot now recall.

After a short but strenuous period the ranks of the G.A.A. re-formed as a united body and from thence till now the movement, passing through many vicissitudes, particularly during the Hamar Greenwood and Black and Tan days, has pursued its victorious career.

KILKENNY'S FOOTBALLERS.

As I have already mentioned, although Kilkenny was never very prominent in the football arena, there were brief periods in which its football representatives showed very high promise. Particularly in this connection I might refer to the Slatequarries Miners' team, who achieved many successes. In Kilkenny City the Commercials were a very useful team. One of the Old Guard who played with that team, Matt Darcy, is still alive.

Another well-known Kilkenny team was "The Larkins," of which Pat Geary was captain. The team was called after young Larkin, son of a Clanrickarde evicted tenant who died in Kilkenny Jail in the Plan of Campaign days.

I cannot close this inadequate tribute to the early workers in the G.A.A. movement in Kilkenny without paying my tribute of respect to one of the most famous hurlers the county ever produced, the great "Fox" Maher whose death a few months ago recalls so many of his brilliant triumphs in the hurling field

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THE ROMANCE OF CROKE PARK

CROKE PARK is definitely identified with the progress of the G.A.A. over the past quarter of a century, but more particularly since it was acquired as official headquarters 20 years ago.

Admirably situated as it is, this ideal venue on reclaimed ground had historic associations with old Dublin before it was first converted into a sports field.

In those far-off days the G.A.A. was in its infancy. There were no "big gates," and with the funds available there was a struggle for existence. Little could be done in the way of providing grounds where only Gaelic games would be played, but always in the minds of the early workers was the ambition to purchase and equip a venue in Dublin that would be worthy of the Association—a rallying centre of Gaeldom.

If the G.A.A. were to make headway, and become the powerful force in the land that was the ideal of its founders and those who followed them, a ground of its own in the Irish capital was essential.

MEMORABLE GAMES.

Long before it came under G.A.A. control, Jones's Road, as it was then known, was the scene of many memorable championship matches.

The All-Ireland finals were first played there in March, 1896, when in the closing ties of the championships for the previous year Tipperary defeated Kilkenny in hurling and Meath in football.

Croke Park was not then, nor for long years after, a fixed venue for the finals, but all the football finals since 1908 and all the hurling finals since 1912 have been played there.

In 1908 the Jones's Road ground was purchased by the late Mr. Frank B. Dineen, a former president and secretary of the G.A.A., who was a native of Ballylanders, County Limerick, resident in Dublin, and in his day a well-known athlete.

A few years later steps were taken by the G.A.A. to provide a suitable memorial to the Association's first patron, the late Archbishop Croke, but it was only in 1913, following the great success of the tournament—Hurling and Football—promoted with that object in view that the purchase of Jones's Road became possible.

The football tournament, in which Kerry defeated Louth on a replay brought in record receipts—£750 and £1,183—and it was largely due to this that the decision was made to purchase the grounds after providing for the erection of a monument to Dr. Croke in Thurles.

There was opposition to the proposal from Tipperary, the plea being made that all the money received from the tournament should have been devoted to the Thurles project, but against this was the feeling that, could the wishes of Dr. Croke be consulted, he would ask for no more suitable memorial than a playing field for the games that he had done so much to foster.

That the purchase of Croke Park, which was effected towards the end of 1913 at a total cost of £3,641 8s. 5d, was a wise decision and helped in popularising the national pastimes and strengthening the position of the G.A.A. is not now open to question.

A LASTING MEMORIAL.

As from the date of the purchase, the ground formerly known as Jones's Road by reason of its situation, was named Croke Park, and Croke Park is to-day synonymous with the prestige of the G.A.A. not alone in Ireland but everywhere an Irishman has found a home.

It is a lasting memorial to Dr. Croke, a tribute to the work of the founders of the G.A.A., and an inspiration to those whose duty it will be to serve the association in the future.

Since its acquisition Croke Park has undergone wonderful improvement, the greater part of which in the way of stands, offices, dressing rooms and baths, was carried out in the years 1922-24 before the first modern Tailteann Games.

The latest addition is a handball court erected in 1932 at an approximate cost of £1,800.

As it stands to-day, Croke Park purchased 20 years ago for less than £4,000 is valued at a figure approaching £36,000.

Further improvements are in hand, and in view of the situation which arose last year when the gates had to be closed at the All-Ireland hurling final, the G.A.A. is faced with the problem of extending the accommodation. It is a happy position as denoting that public support has been keeping pace with the ever growing popularity of the games. It will be for those in control to cater for the demand.

It is only those who are old enough to remember Jones's Road in the early days can fully appreciate the remarkable progress of the G.A.A. that is evidenced in the Croke Park of 1934.

AN AWFUL SUNDAY.

Memories of Croke Park with its Gaelic hostings and thrilling games are invariably of a pleasant nature, but the Hogan stand will always be a reminder of the times when foul deeds were done on a people struggling to be free.

On a Sunday in November, 1920, Tipperary and Dublin were engaged in a football contest when the ground was invaded by British forces, who, in reprisal for happenings of the previous night in the city, fired indiscriminately on the crowd, killing Michael Hogan, of the Tipperary team, more than a dozen of the spectators, and many others.

It was an appalling crime, but its effect on the young men of the G.A.A. and their supporters was the opposite to that intended, and it was fitting that in due course the name of Michael Hogan should for ever be associated with Croke Park.

The Hogan stand is dedicated to his memory, as one may read from an appropriately inscribed tablet that was unveiled on St. Patrick's Day, 1926, when a football match was again played between Tipperary and Dublin.

At a future date in connection with the scheme of improvement it is proposed to have busts of the G.A.A. founders, Dr. Croke, Michael Cusack, and Maurice Davin, erected over the entrance to Croke Park.

Famous Irish Athletes

From Left:—At back—J. Leahy, Con Walsh, Con Leahy. Front—Tim Leahy, Paddy Leahy, and J. J. McKenzie.

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IN THE LAND OF THE O'MOORES

LAOIGHIS

Chairman—Mr. L. Brady.

Secretary—Mr. J. W. Drennan, Ballacolla.

Colours—Blue and White.

LAOIGHIS, though small in territory and population, has played a very large part in the development of the G.A.A. since its foundation. It is one of the very few counties that has always been capable of fielding inter-County teams in both hurling and football, that must be seriously reckoned with as being well in the running for Chamionship honours.

But these honours have been few and far between, due perhaps to a lack of that thorough organisation which must ultimately bring success; or there may be an inferiority complex which prevents the functioning of that "little bit extra" at critical moments. Laoghis Gaels have always been prominent in initiating reforms, shaping the policy and upholding the honour of the Association.

Geographically, the county is divided into Upper Ossory and Laoighis. Historically, these two divisions correspond to the territories ruled by the Mac Giolla Phadraigs and the O'Moores. The O'Moores ruled Leix up to the time of Cromwell, but the scatter was so great after that period, that the O'Moore clan was almost wiped out in its own territory.

O'MOORE PARK.

In commemoration of the exploits of this clan, and to keep their memory alive in the minds of the Gaels of the county, now and for generations to come the county grounds at Portlaoighise have been aptly named "Pairc O Mordha." These boundaries also define fairly accurately the hurling and football areas. Football has been confined to the eastern division, and hurling to the western, and all attempts to plant hurling in football territory, or vice versa, have been failures.

Local tradition states that long before the advent of the G.A.A., hurling matches between the parishes and baronies of Upper Ossory were frequently played, and some of the oldest residents narrate with gusto the great games played at Aghaboe, Coolrain, Harristown, and elsewhere. This territory was thus ripe for organisation work when the G.A.A. was established.

The chief hurling centres in the early days were Rathdowney, Clonaslee, Aghaboe, and Camross. Kilcotton came on about 1900, and have remained in the picture ever since. Ballygeehan sprang into prominence in 1915, and dominated the county for six or seven years subsequently. It is a pity that this famous club has been allowed to lapse in recent years. Abbeyleix, Portlaoighise, and Clonad have latterly asserted themselves, and have gained Senior Championships.

THE COUNTY'S FIRST VICTORY.

The first striking honour won by the county was in 1908, when Leix won the Croke Cup, defeating Galway and Kerry in the semi-final and final. The intense rivalry between Kilcotton and Rathdowney in 1912 and '13 brought about a marked improvement in hurling technique, with the result that the county pick, under the captaincy of Jack Carroll, won the Leinster Championship in 1914, beating, in turn, Wexford, Dublin, and Kilkenny. The team, however, in some unaccountable way failed against Clare in the final.

THE FIRST ALL-IRELAND.

The advent of Ballygeehan brought youth and strength to the inter-county team, which in 1915, under the leadership of Jack Finlay, succeeded in bringing the only All-Ireland Championship to Laoighis, beating a first-class Cork team by 6-2 to 3-4. Some very useful teams have represented the county since, and have undoubtedly been unfortunate in not annexing further honours.

Football has been almost exclusively confined to the O'Moore territory, and as early as 1889 the county wrote its name on the Championship tables when Portlaoighise were runners-up to the Tipperary Bohercrowes in the final. After this great effort the county faded out of the inter-county picture for many years, but strenuous battles for local championship honours were staged at home, the principal contestants hailing from the districts around The Heath, Vicarstown, Stradbally, Portlaoighaise, and Abbeyleix. The Tynans of Abbeyleix, Millers of Annanough, and Delaneys of Stradbally are household names in the history of Laoighis football.

The advent of Graigueculien in recent years brought a new and virile combination into the Championship, and the intense rivalry at present existing between Graigue and Stradbally has given such an impetus to football in these districts that they overshadow the other Senior teams.

WINNERS OF THE FIRST LEAGUE.

A team led by Dick Miller won the first National Football League, beating Kerry in the final. In recnt years the Senior Football team has undoubtedly had hard luck in the Leinster Championships, but, perhaps, as mentioned above, our teams lack that will-to-win which is such a characteristic of all the great Championship counties.

As far as available information goes, the championships have been won as follows:—

Senior Hurling — Rathdowney, 16 times; Kilcotton, 10; Ballygeehan, 5; Clonad, 2; Abbeyleix, 2; Clonaslee, 2; Portlaoighise, 1.

Senior Football—Stradbally, 9 times; Abbeyleix, 8; Ballyroan, Portlaoighise Portarlington, Heath, 4 each; Annanough, 3; Raheenabrogue and Graigue, 2 each; Ballinakill, Moyanna, and Wolfhill, 1 each.

The football championships are more complete than the hurling, for there is no available record of any S.H. from 1891 to 1897.

The County Executive has functioned since the first years of the Association, but organisation appears to have been somewhat lax up to 1900, and reliable information is very difficult to obtain. With the advent of the present County Secretary, Mr. John Drennan, in 1900, better business methods prevailed, and meetings were held regularly.

A HURLING BOOM.

It was during the presidency of Fr. Kearney that the great boom in hurling came, and his organising ability and tact were largely responsible for the successes of that period. I may safely say that there is no person connected at any time with the G.A.A. in Leix who is spoken of with such affection and such respect as Fr. Kearney. During his presidency also the necessity for a central G.A.A. ground, owned by the County Committee, was often discussed by prominent Gaels of the county. These discussions culminated in the purchase, in 1918, on behalf of the G.A.A., of the present commodious grounds at Portlaoighise. Fr. Kearney, J. Miller, sen., J. Drennan, R. O'Keeffe, and Tim Duggan were the leaders in this departure.

This example set by Leix has been followed by almost every county in Ireland, and the result has been much prestige and much gain to the Association. The ground remained in an undeveloped state for a few years, but latterly many improvements have been carried out; a commodious seated stand is now a vital necessity, and its erection is being earnestly considered by the Field Committee. Though close on £2,000 have been expended on the grounds, the present bank overdraft is only £50. This speaks volumes for the business ability and financial acumen of the responsible officials. There are also spacious and well-equipped grounds at Portarlington, Abbeyleix, and Rathdowney, and owned by these clubs.

RECENT PROGRESS.

The development of the game in the county has been very rapid in recent years. From 1900 to 1921 the number of clubs ranged about 30, and the teams taking part in the championships about 40. The number has risen each year since 1921, and last year stood at 60 clubs and 106 teams. This does not include schools' teams, which have organised competitions of their own. Every parish in the county is organised, and in some parishes there are several teams. Reckoning the strength of the G.A.A. on the number playing the games, Laoighis may be ranked very high in the list.

The Championships are played off on what is locally known as the "Group System," combining League and knock-out. The number of matches necessary to complete the 1933 championships was about 160.

A real live bond exists between the G.A.A. and Gaelic League in the county, and a series of matches, in which all the senior teams take part, are played annually in support of the County Feis. The teams travel at their own expense, and all the proceeds go to the Feis Committee.

NOTED LAOIGHIS GAELS.

Mr. Lar Brady, who has been Chairman of the County Board for many years, is a hurler of note, and captains Clonad, the present S.H. champions. He is an efficient, hard-working, and fair-minded official.

Mr. John Drennan, Ballacolla, Hon. Secretary, who was elected unanimously at the recent Convention, has had an unbroken term of office of 34 years. It must be a record for long service as an official. He was a useful hurler in his young days.

Mr. Peter Daly, Rathdowney, is the grand old man of the G.A.A. in Leix. He has represented the county on the Leinster Council for many years, and was a noted hurler in the early years of the present century. He often captained the inter-county hurling team.

Mr. Jack Delaney, Stradbally, has done big work in developing football, and his great services in this respect have been recognised year after year by his unanimous selection to partner Mr. Daly on the Leinster Council.

Mr. Bob O'Keeffe, Chairman of the Leinster Council, has been treasurer to the county for 14 or 15 years, and all financial business is done by him. The present happy state of the finances is chiefly due to his careful handling and thoroughness in organisation.

The present champions in Senior Hurling and Senior Football are Clonad and Stradbally, respectively.

On the whole, in this jubilee year, the Gaels of Laoighis can look back with satisfaction and look forward with confidence and hope.

A. D.

Laoighis All-Ireland Team, 1915.

Included above are:—Rev. Fr. Kearney, President Co. Board; J. Finlay (captain), J. Walsh, T. Finlay, James Carroll, John Carroll, Joseph Carroll, J. Daly, P. Campion, J. Phelan, J. Hiney, John Phelan, E. McEvoy, Bob O'Keeffe, J. Dunphy, and P. Ryan (goal).

IN EIGHT HURLING FINALS

LIMERICK

Chairman—Mr. W. P. Clifford.

Secretary—Mr. D. Lanigan, 18 Thomas St., Limerick.

Colours—Green and White.

BEFORE the memorable Thurles meeting of 1884, when the G.A.A. was launched, hurlings took place in different parts of Co. Limerick.

The oldest popular game in this line was "Hurling Home." The ball was thrown in between groups from different parishes and districts. The side which hurled the ball home over ditches and dykes won the victory. There were no rules governing those engagements, so you can picture the scuffles which took place.

It is Limerick's proud boast that since the inception of the G.A.A., and down along the years without a break, our countymen have always acted as members of the ruling body. Some of them occupied the most responsible positions.

A LIMERICK TREASURER.

As far back as 1887 the late Pat Hassett, Ahane, defeated Hugh Ryan, of Thurles, for the Treasurership of the Central Council at an All-Ireland Convention at Thurles. Hassett's victory was a very popular one, as he was well-known throughout the whole country.

At the stormy G.A.A. Convention of 1887 Mr. Hassett sided with the Physical Force Party, and in the subsequent division in Limerick he supported Paddy O'Brien's (Twenty) in the fight with the Board known as Father Sheehy's. The Limerick split continued for close on three years, during which sad period several of the older Gaels he was succeeded by his close friend, Mr. Anthony Mackey, Castleconnell, whose connection with the Central Council continued for many years. At Mr. Mackey's native village one of the greatest tournaments at this period was held.

Seventeen matches took place, most of them being refereed by Mr. Hassett, whose commanding presence and fine judgment gave general satisfaction. I have referred at some length to Messrs. Hassett and Mackey, as they were pioneers, and during the long years intervening to Mr. W. Clifford's (Fedamore), now of Boher, election as President of the G.A.A. I cannot recall any other of our Limerick Gaels occupying official positions on the Executive.

Associated with the forementioned were Pat O'Brien (Twenty), Tom Gorman, John Crowe, L. Troy, Michael Joyce, ex-M.P.; J. Sheehan, Wm. Trosdell, of the City; P. R. Clery, Caherconlish; L. Roche, Dromin; J. W. Hickey, Boher. Most of those Gaelic enthusiasts belonged to the same school of Irish thought as the founders.

COUNTY BOARDS.

Looking back on the old days, the most prominent for years as Chairman of our County Board was that grand character, the late Spencer Lyons, Croom. Paddy Hayes was secretary during this period. I have vivid recollections of attending Boards' meetings under their management at the Commercial Hotel, Catherine Street, over 40 years ago. Other great Gaels who occupied the Chair were:—

Jim Reardon, Jack Kelly, and for later years the present chairman, Mr. W. Clifford. Jim Ryan succeeded Paddy Hayes as Secretary, and the present official, Mr. Denis Lanigan, then took up the reins of office, and has done more than any other man to raise the financial side of our G.A.A. work to a sound basis.

During all those later years the present Treasurer, Mr. Charles Holland, even in the dark days when funds were low, was always active in the work of our County Board.

As a subsidiary body in the county work, any words could not convey praise enough for the organising abilities of the Gaels of West Limerick. They have a club in every parish, and are very sound financially. That famous hurler, Mr. W. Hough, is a great leader. The present Chairman, Father Punch, W. Purtill, Vice, and Secretaries Mr. T. Reidy and Mr. J. McCarthy, are great workers.

Even though the Southern Board has not reached such heights as our western friends, still they are nobly keeping the

(Continued on Page 79.)

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Front Row: J. Foley, R. Ryan, D. Troy, Bob McConkey, P. Barry (white shirt). Middle Row: J. Humphreys, W. Penny, T. McGrath, Rev. S. Connelly, Liam Hough (capt.), Rev. J. O'Keeffe (now in U.S.A.), Jack Keane, W. Gleeson, F. Shanny. Back Row: B. Croke, J. Kelly (chairman), D. Hennessy, M. Rochford, P. Kennedy, W. Ryan, W. Gleeson (senr.), D. Lanigan, J. Ryan (Sec.), M. Murphy (goal), C. Ryan (sub.), M. Bourke (sub.)

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HELP FROM A GREAT COLLEGE

LONGFORD

Chairman—Rev. M. McLoughlin.
Secretary—Mr. J. V. O'Kelly, Liosbreac, Longford.
Colours—Blue and Gold.

LONGFORD'S early Gaelic athletic leaders appear to have had little or no idea of the value of publicity. Whether this was due to apathy on the part of the leaders or hostility on the part of the local Press is not apparent, but the local Press of twenty-five or thirty years ago contains only very meagre details of Gaelic activities, and these appeared only irregularly.

Despite the lack of detail, there is fairly definite evidence that the G.A.A. existed in Longford in 1890. An ardent supporter of the games claims to have seen the first Gaelic match in Longford on June 1, 1890, when the competing teams were Colmcille and "Honest John's," a team drawn from Rathcline. The rather remarkable club name was in compliment to John Martin, of Greville-Martin election fame.

The fact that teams existed in those two areas may be regarded as evidence of a fairly widespread organisation—Colmcille, on the shores of Lough Gowna, borders Cavan, and Rathcline, centering round Lanesboro', is on the Shannon's shore.

Very fittingly, the first President of the County Board of the O'Farrell territory was an O'Farrell in the person of the late J. P. Farrell, M.P.

The earlier efforts of Longford's Gaelic pioneers appear to have been directed towards the fostering of football in the county, for there are no records of hurling championships until the opening years of the present century, and the game was ill-fated, for, after 1913, there was no hurling until its revival in 1932.

GRANARD'S PROMINENCE.

Some idea of the game must have remained in or around Granard, for the first championship of the revival was won by the Granard club, and Granard are credited with the 1913 hurling title.

Football appears to have made but elsewhere, enthusiasts who kept the flag flying in times of stress. Ten years ago the first remarkable effort came when the county won the Leinster Junior Football Championship and indifferent progress up to the last decade, but there were in Longford, as failed before Kerry in the All-Ireland Final. Munster teams appear to have been the bogey of Longford, for when once again the county figured in an All-Ireland, the Minor Football Final of 1929, it was a Munster team—Clare—that put paid to the Midland account.

The winning of the 1924 Leinster title gave a much-needed impetus to the game in Longford, and for a year or two they were prominent, but the prominence ceased when, in 1926, the county was suspended as a result of differences with the Provincial authorities.

Though the county returned to the fold in the following year, much of the ground already won had to be fought for again, and there has been an uphill struggle since.

Locally the games go on with a modicum of success, but progress is being made and interest maintained and increased. There are many genuine workers who endeavour to overcome the obstacles. The provision of a county grounds is an instance of what is being done. These are well on the way to completion, and will be a valuable asset. The Leinster Council has made an advance of £350 for this project.

INDIFFERENCE OVERCOME.

In the matter of clubs Longford has for long been in an unenviable position. Apathy in rural areas is largely responsible, but here, too, the work goes on, and gradually the indifference is giving way to enthusiasm, so much so that the near future should find Longford reporting a notable increase in strength.

The revival of hurling in recent years, even on a very small scale, provides yet another indication of the efforts being made to promote the welfare of the Association, and with the Minor Championships, which it is hoped to start this year, it may be taken for granted that the efforts of the Longford Gaels will eventually place the county in its proper position on the Gaelic map. The schools have been organised, and already there is evidence of the influence of this development on the working of local clubs.

A GREAT COLLEGE.

Even the shortest story of the Association in Longford would be incomplete without reference to St. Mel's College, where valuable assistance is being given to the Gaelic revival. Twice in recent years the College has won the Leinster Colleges Senior Football Championship, a feat of which local Gaels are justly proud.

The College authorities, ever favourably inclined towards the Gaels, have given many facilities to the County officials and selectors, and equally important is the fact that only Gaelic games are catered for in St. Mel's.

Longford's present officers are Rev. M. McLoughlin, St. Mel's, Longford, who is Chairman; Mr. J. Mannix, N.T., Ballinalee, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. J. V. Kelly, Liosbreac, Longford, is the energetic and efficient hon. secretary, to whom no small measure of credit is due for the efforts of Longford on behalf of the G.A.A.

The present Championship holders are:—

Senior Football—St. Mary's, Granard.
Junior Football—St. Brigid's, Killashee.
Hurling—Granard.
Schools' League—Stonepark, Longford.

In addition to the Championships the county caters for its footballers by Senior and Junior Football Leagues. The Hurling Championship is played on double league system.

Promising Longford Juniors

ST. MELS (LONGFORD) JUNIOR TEAM IN 1933.

LIMERICK—Continued from Page 78

G.A.A. flag flying. Mr. M. Sullivan, Mr. T. Woods, and Mr. J. Geary have always been active Gaels.

Although the famous Commercials conquered all Ireland at football as long ago as the years 1887 and 1896, yet it is in hurling our county has excelled since those far-off days.

LIMERICK IN EIGHT FINALS.

In 1897 Kilfinane defeated Tullaroan by 3 points.

In 1910 Castleconnell succumbed to Castlebridge by 1 point.

An appeal was lodged against incompetent umpiring, but over-ruled.

In 1911 Castleconnell refused to meet Tullaroan in the final at Thurles, following the Cork disappointment.

In 1918 Newcastle West beat Wexford Selection by 26 points.

In 1921 Young Irelands defeated Faughs by 18 points.

In 1923 Limerick was beaten by Galway by 7 points.

In 1933 Limerick went down to Kilkenny by 4 points.

Those were the different All-Ireland finals in which our county "selections" took part, but during this long period Young Irelands and Claughan (City), severed their connection with the Association.

Hassett was one of those, and on relinquishing his position as Treasurer, Castleconnell, later Ahane, Fedamore, Croom, Newcastle West, Rathkeale, Cappamore etc., always kept alive the premier game.

Limerick has continually fielded good "selections," although not often attaining the highest honours. The county that can persevere, notwithstanding many disappointments, deserves the appreciation of Gaeldom, so its great prestige in the hurling world to-day deserves the highest praise. Limerick looks forward with great confidence to the Jubilee year, and may its hopes be realised.

FOR FOOTBALL HONOURS.

The once famous Limerick Commercials can lay claim to the first All-Ireland Senior Football Championship, defeating Louth (Young Irelands) at Clonskeagh in 1887. They carried off the blue riband again in 1896 at Jones's Road by 1 point over Dublin (Young Irelands).

Although these are the only two occasions our footballers carried off the Finals, the game has been continually played in Glin, Abbeyfeale, Ballylanders, Knockane, Pallas, and elsewhere. Many of us feel that the Commercials in the city could be easily revived while we have yet such active Gaels as Mr. Con Fitzgerald and Mr. Alby Quillinan, hale and hearty to train the rising generation where there is such promising material.

ATHLETES.

In this article I have not an opportunity of making deserving personal references to our Limerick athletes who have made history at home and across the water. In the different branches of athletics they have shown their prowess in quite as large a number from Sarsfield's County as any similar area on the globe.

"SHANNON SIDER."

THE STELLA RESTAURANT AND SNACK BAR LIMERICK

OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT

FAMOUS DRAWN GAME RECALLED

LOUTH

Chairman—Mr. James Flood.

Secretary—Mr. P. Duffy,
29 Chord Road,
Drogheda.

Colours—Red.

LOUTH was one of the first counties to adopt the infant Association, and as early as 1885 a match was played between the Dundalk Young Irelands and Tullyallen, at Tullyallen, near Drogheda, and the name of this little townland is still famous wherever the Gaelic game is played.

In 1887, when the first All-Ireland Championship was played, Louth, represented by the Young Irelands, who were later to establish a great record as a club, were the finalists with Limerick Commercials in a historic game at Donnybrook, where the Louthmen were defeated by 1 goal 4 points to 3 points.

Louth contested the Leinster football final of 1890 against Wexford Blue and Whites, and it has been one of the standing grievances of the "wee county" to the present day that they got a "raw deal" in that game. Mr. William Elliott, who captained the Drogheda Davitts on the occasion, and who has since devoted a lifetime of service to the Louth G.A.A. as player, administrator, and writer, told me that Louth were cheated out of that game! They won it fair and square on the field, he declares (and who should know better), but an objection which they lodged afterwards was not even acknowledged by those who ruled the roost in Dublin at the time!

WHEN HISTORY WAS MADE.

The halcyon days of Louth football came within the years 1909-1913, during which our representatives annexed three Leinster Championships, won an All-Ireland title on the field, and were awarded another in circumstances which caused a furore in G.A.A. circles.

Wherever a group of Louth men gathers in any part of the world talk will inevitably drift back to those glorious day when Louth footballers were the idols of the country. They will tell about the Drogheda Davitts and Independents and Tredaghs, about the Dundalk Young Irelands and the Rangers, the Volunteers and the St. Mochtas. And with what a relish they will rehearse those "old forgotten, far-off things and battles long ago."

They will go through the names of that famous champion team and recall the wonderful deeds of their favourite players, and fall out in a friendly way about their faults and merits. Charlie McAlester (R.I.P.), Larry McCormack, Owen Markey, the incomparable Carvin, Eddie Burke, "Claudie" Clarke, Thomas Morgan, Jim Smith, Johnnie Brennan, Joe Mulligan (Stonewall), and so on until the whole gallant list is exhausted.

Able local administrators and politicians who made their mark have gone into oblivion, but the names of the footballers who proved their mettle against Ireland's best are still fresh in the hearts of Louth men.

THE UNPLAYED FINAL.

After 1887 the first appearance of Louth in an All-Ireland final was in 1909, when the famous Tredagh selection faced Kerry, represented by the Tralee Mitchels, at Jones' Road. Louth were beaten by 1 goal 9 points to 6 points. Next year (1910) came the unfortunate crux which Louth men have never completely forgotten or forgiven. The all-conquering Tredaghs were at the height of their career, and, having beaten Leinster's best, were all-set for a second meeting with Kerry.

The whole county was keyed up to an amazing pitch of enthusiasm, and a record hosting of Gaels was being prepared for when, on the eve of the contest, came the news, like a bombshell, that Kerry would not travel—they had fallen out with the Great Southern Railway Company.

It was a good while before the Gaels of Louth recovered from this stunning blow, and although the championship was awarded to the "wee county" they have never yet stopped talking about what that game might have meant to Louth had it been played.

The Tredaghs continued their winning way in Louth, and in 1912 achieved their long-cherished ambition of bringing an All-Ireland title Boynewards. In a game packed with thrills, played before a record crowd, Louth, captained by Jim Smith, defeated Antrim, led by John Coburn, by 1 goal 7 points to 1 goal 2 points.

A MEMORABLE CLASSIC.

The next high-spot in Louth's football history came in 1913, when they qualified to meet Kerry in the final of the Croke Memorial Tournament. Here was a spectacle fit for the gods. With the bitterness aroused by the 1910 debacle still smouldering, there was nothing wanting from the "needle" element so beloved by spectators. The game was noteworthy, too, in that it was the first important match played under the 15-a-side rule, Louth having tried unavailingly to have the competition concluded, as it was started, under the old rule.

The game was played on May 4, 1913, and was one of the classics of the G.A.A.'s history. In an epic struggle, marked by fierce but well-controlled enthusiasm, the long-whistle sounded with the teams on level terms.

They met again on June 29, 1913, before another record crowd, and after a contest which many of the older school claim to have been the greatest game played in the national stadium, the men from the Kingdom emerged deserving winners by 2 goals 4 points to 5 points.

It was these games which gave Gaelic football an indisputed standing amongst the sports of the world, demanding all the highest qualities of the athlete.

The effect of this defeat was heightened by internal troubles before and after the game, and Louth began to experience a period of lean seasons which has lasted without appreciable interruption until recent years. But although fortune has not lavished its favours on Louth, there has never been any slackening of interest in the progress of the national pastimes within its borders, and to-day there is a noticeable re-awakening of that spirit which carried our forbears to triumph after triumph.

Amongst the keenest followers of the game at present are many of the men who wore the Louth colours in those memorable games, and it is worthy of mention that the man who was re-elected to the position of County Secretary a few weeks ago—Mr. P. Duffy—was the man who occupied that position nearly a quarter of a century ago.

The chronicle of fifty years' unremitting activity cannot be compressed into the space of a short article without injustice being done to the subject under review. But when the story is written by somebody more competent than I, it will be found to be a document vibrant with the records of gallant deeds, of work well done, of ambitions achieved, and of hopes blasted.

Above all, it will be a history of steadfastness of purpose and of loyalty to high ideals which in fair weather and in foul have characterised the pioneers of the Gaelic Athletic Association in the smallest county in Ireland.

DROGHEDA'S PROUD BOAST

World's Record in : Breadmaking :

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In Open Competition at Exhibition held at Rotunda, Dublin, PETER LYONS, Drogheda, was awarded First Prize, Gold Medal and Grand Diploma of Honour for the Best Loaf Bread, and was also Awarded First Prize, Gold Medal and Grand Diploma of Honour for the Best Pan Bread.

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In Open Competition at Exhibition held at Royal Agricultural Hall, London, PETER LYONS, Drogheda, was awarded First Prize, Gold Medal and Grand Diploma of Honour for the Best Loaf Bread, and was also Awarded First Prize, Gold Medal and Grand Diploma of Honour for the Best Pan Bread.

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DOMINANT RECORD IN CONNACHT

MAYO

Chairman—Mr. B. Durcan.
Secretary—Mr. P. Mullaney, Balla.
Colours—Red and Green.

MAYO was one of the first of the Western counties to fall in line after the formation of the G.A.A., and before 1887 football clubs had been established in many parishes. Amongst those affiliated were Balla Granuailes, Charlestown, Sarsfields, Ballina Commercials, Castlebar Mitchels, Ballina Stephenites, Crossmolina Dr. Crokes, Killala Round Towers, Ballysokeery Dr. Walsh's, Backs Kickhams, Swinford, Ballyhaunis, and Claremorris.

Mr. P. G. Smyth, Editor of "Western People," and author of "The Wild Rose of Lough Gill," was the first president, and those associated with him at the head of the different clubs included A. J. Staunton, of Swinford; J. Nally, Balla; T. Courell and Pat Beirne, Ballina; P. W. Durkan, Killala; J. Ryan, Crossmolina; J. Kelly, Castlebar; T. B. Kelly, Claremorris; Martin Bourke, Ballysokeery; Willie Quigley, Knockmore, and others.

SENATOR McELLIN, who captained a Mayo All-Ireland team.

The first championship played in 1888 was won by Balla Granuailes, Castlebar Mitchels carried off the honours in 1889, and the medals of 1890 went to the Ballina Stephenites. Ballina had two clubs affiliated, and the Ballina Commercials were the victors in 1891. After this year apathy and dissension set in among the leaders, and the rank and file lost interest, with the result that there was only one affiliated club in 1896—namely, Claremorris.

THE REVIVAL.

The big revival took place in 1902 when F. B. Dinneen, of Dublin, reorganised the county with the able assistance of J. Cotter, Castlebar, chairman; J. Swift, Claremorris, treasurer, and P. J. Carroll, Ballina, secretary. Mr. Dinneen contributed a set of medals for competition which were won by the Ballina Stephenites, who were afterwards beaten for the county championship by Charlestown. The next year's championship went to Castlebar, who were not again listed as champions till 1930, and are at present custodians of that honour. A fillip was given to the football game by these keen competitions. Hurling, for some reason, never became popular and the history of the G.A.A. in Mayo must be largely confined to football.

From 1902 the county started on the upward climb with the bright hope of one day winning the highest honours in football—the All-Ireland Cup and medals—and although Mayo reached the final in 1916, 1921, and 1932, that day has not yet arrived. The jubilee year of 1934 may see the pinnacle reached.

Charlestown represented the county the first year after the reorganisation and were beaten by Cork. The Ballina Stephenites in 1905 began their long series of county championships, and their strenuous efforts to reach the top. During these years they won outright the Connacht Cup presented by Mr. Wm. Duffy, then M.P. for South Galway. Their many contests with Kerry for the Croke Cup shows how hard they struggled to snatch the coveted prize.

Mayo fought Kerry to a draw at Tuam in 1906, the score being one point each (a remarkable result when we take into consideration that the side points had not then been abolished), and beat them on the replay at Limerick, Kerry meanwhile winning the All-Ireland final from Kildare. Mayo carried off the Croke Cup in 1907, 1908, and 1909, defeating Kerry and Waterford, when Mayo was exclusively represented by the Ballina Stephenite.

During these years the county was ably represented on the Provincial Council by T. S. Moclair, of Castlebar, still a staunch supporter of the G.A.A., and the players on the Croke team were:—A. Corcoran (capt.), W. Boshell, T. Gilmartin, M. McHugh, B. Ferguson, L. Casey, P. Farmer, D. F. Courell, T. Barrett, J. Moran, P. Kilduff, G. Fitzgerald, E. Boshell, T. Boshell, D. Ryder, M. Rafter, P. Sweeney.

Since that date Mayo has met Kerry in six All-Ireland competitions, beating them in 1916 at Ennis, while the winning margin on the other occasions was always small.

MAYO IN THE FINALS.

Mayo contested three All-Ireland finals—against Wexford in 1916, against Dublin in 1921, and against Kerry in 1932. They won the All-Ireland semi-final in 1925, when J. E. McEllin, now Senator, was captain of the team, but were afterwards defeated by Galway in the belated Provincial Championship, and Galway got the All-Ireland medals.

Seldom has Mayo lost its grip on the Connacht Championship, which it has won no fewer than 19 times, and, although the honour sometimes slipped from their grasp, the Mayomen were always back again the next year fighting hard to regain lost ground.

The counties which now and then wrested the Provincial Championship from Mayo rarely outlived the All-Ireland semi-final.

Mayo in 1921 met Dublin in the final of the Croke Park tournament, and were victors by the score of 1-3 to 1-2. The team on that occasion was—R. Creagh (Castlebar), Paddy Beirne (Ballina), B. Durcan (Ballina), J. E. McEllin (Balla), W. Boshell (Ballina), T. Robinson (Lacken), J. Lydon (Kiltimagh), J. Forde (Lacken), W. McDonnell (Charlestown), Paddy McLean (Ballycastle), G. Delaney (Ballina), Sean Lavin (Kiltimagh), W. Lydon (Ballina), Johnny Whyte (Ballina), E. Mongey (Castlebar). Willie Boshell was captain of this team. It was a remarkable fact that most of Mayo's successes have been connected with the name of Croke, the renowned Archbishop of Cashel. Thrice they won the Croke Cup and ten years later annexed another Croke trophy.

Mayo's long hold of leadership in Connacht—1929 to 1932—was interrupted by Galway which won the 1933 championship; but watch Mayo again this year. History may repeat itself. Mayo is at time of writing heading its division of the League, having beaten Galway and Meath, and drawn with Cavan, holders of the All-Ireland title. Mayo have yet to meet Louth.

OLD PLAYERS STILL INTERESTED.

On reading the roster of the great Mayo clubs of other years it is gratifying to find the familiar names occurring in the lists of players of to-day, thus showing that the G.A.A. tradition has descended from sire to son. Still more pleasing is it to discover the players of twenty or more years ago now filling positions on the Co. Board or giving their experienced counsel to the players of to-day. Men of the great championship teams of other years like B. Durcan, Tommy Forde, Pat Kilduff, Frank Courell, and the efficient trainer of the present team—Willie Boshell, may be mentioned. Other wise councillors are M. Farrell, of Lacken, and Jack Kenny, who represents the county on the Provincial Council.

The many Mayo men who live in Dublin or across the seas have not lost interest in their native county. Supt. D. Creagh, Dr. Sean Lavin, Capt. Fred Doherty, Dr. M. Mullen, Paddy O'Beirne, players of other days, and their colleagues of the Mayo Men's Association in Dublin, remember their playing days, and are giving encouragement to the youngsters of to-day by donating a Cup for competition in their native county. It was only fitting that the presiding chairman at the banquet recently given to Mayo's first All-Ireland's champions, should be a man who shed lustre on Mayo football—Mike McHugh, one of the original Croke Cup team.

THE AMERICAN TOUR.

The Mayo tour of the United States gave an added interest to football in Mayo and helped to place the county in a more flourishing condition than it had been for years past. The Minors reached the All-Ireland final against Kerry last year, putting up a gallant fight, and losing by only a small margin. The Juniors brought Mayo its first All-Ireland Championship, and, with such material on hand, Mayo need not fear the future.

The Cup presented by the Mayo men of Dublin for competition among Minor teams to commemorate Mayo's win in the Junior All-Ireland Football Final in 1933.

Another bright feature is the effort being made to provide suitable playing fields. Castlebar has a splendid pitch in McHale Park, and Ballina, after forty-seven years of loyal service to G.A.A. principles, can claim for the first time its own ground (James Stephens' Park), which, when completed, will be second to none in Ireland.

One of the principal causes of the success of the G.A.A. in Mayo is the great interest shown in the movement by the Catholic clergy. Father Eddie O'Hara, of Bonniconlon, as president, has done wonderful work, both on the County Board and the playing fields, being present at every match. Father Corcoran and Father Curley, of Castlebar, and Father O'Connor, Father Feeney, and Father Barrett, of Ballina, are also enthusiastic workers in the good cause.

In finances, Mayo is flourishing, the balance sheet for this year showing over £360 to credit. This is mainly due to the careful administration of the Finance Committee and the efficiency of one of Ireland's best secretaries, P. J. Mullaney, of Balla. The chairman, B. Durcan, a former county player; the vice-chairman, Tommy Forde, another past stalwart; and the treasurer, Mick Mulderrig, captain of the touring team, are hard workers, and, with the able assistance of P. Rainsford, J. J. Walsh, Wm. O'Dwyer, and others, are keeping Mayo's G.A.A. ship on an even keel and running in smooth waters.

P. J. C.

The Congress Convention

The Confraternity Hall, Thurles, the meeting-place of the Jubilee Year Convention.

ONCE IN ALL-IRELAND FINAL

MEATH

Chairman—Mr. John Newman.
Secretary—Mr. J. Giles,
Boyne Bridge,
Navan.
Colours—Green and Gold.

IF a person who knew nothing about Gaelic affairs looked at the Senior Championship Roll of Honour he might conclude that Meath played but a small part in the Gaelic field. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is true that Meath only once reached an All-Ireland Senior final, and that was the single occasion in the half-century that she won a Leinster Senior Championship.

Yet, few counties have as proud a record of consistent support of, and loyalty to, the native games. Royal Meath came into Cusack's Association from the beginning, and has remained there ever since.

One of the earliest sports meetings held under the G.A.A. was at Beaupare in 1885. Kells, nod Ceanannus Mor, was amongst the first towns in Leinster to establish a G.A.A. club.

Meath was in the first half a dozen counties to form county boards. Mr. P. Fullam (who afterwards won a historic Parliamentary election, when he defeated the Parnellite candidate for South Meath by 13 votes in 1892, only to be unseated on a petition) was the county's first chairman, elected in January, 1887, with Mr. C. Smith, of Kells, as secretary. Mr. Fullam was succeeded by Father Woods, of Navan, who in turn was succeeded by Mr. M. Sheridan.

IN THE FIRST CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Meath took part in the first All-Ireland Football Championships, when her representatives (Dowdstown) were beaten by 3 goals, 2 points to 2 points by the Limerick Commercials, who ultimately won the title. The next year Dowdstown again carried the county colours, and were beaten by Louth at Drogheda.

Meath then shared in the decline that set in during the early nineties, when for three or four years the Association was almost non-existent in the greater part of the country. We find no mention of Meath in the championships of 1891, 1892, or 1893.

In 1894, however, the county was again reorganised, and at a county convention Mr. M. Murray, of Kells, was elected chairman, while Mr. R. T. C. Blake (who later became General Secretary of the Association) represented the county at the National Congress.

A MEMORABLE FINAL.

In 1895 Meath made football history. The Navan Mahony club, winning in turn from Cavan, Kilkenny, and Dublin, entered the All-Ireland final against Arravale Rovers, one of the great teams that then flourished in Tipperary town. The final, the first to be played in what is now Croke Park, was memorable for many reasons. It was the first of a series of matches that made Gaelic history, as the Kerry-Kildare matches did ten years later.

The Meath men who took part in that final, played on 15th March, 1896, were:—M. Murray (captain), H. Pantelon, P. Clarke, J. Hegarty, J. Russell, G. W. Toombe, J. A. Shaw, B. McCabe, P. Fox, J. Elliott, M. Elliott, M. Rogers, C. Curtis, J. Quinn, V. McDermott, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Sharkey, P. Daly.

After a thrilling game, the Arravale Rovers won by 4 points to 3. A writer in "Sport" said Tipperary won because: "First, and over all, there is only one Willie Ryan (a famous Tipperary player) in Ireland; secondly, by the length of their kicks, and last, but not least, they were in luck."

The following day there was a bombshell when the referee, Mr. J. J. Kenny, of Dublin, wrote to the newspapers questioning the fairness of one of the Tipperary points and suggesting that a mistake had been made. The Meath men, however, refused to take any advantage of the mistake, and the Central Council offered a special set of medals to the Navan team. Within a few months the same teams met three times, the result on two occasions being a draw, while Tipperary won the third trial.

Although the county afterwards fell on lean times so far as championship honours were concerned, the games have always flourished in Meath. The number of affiliated clubs in Meath has probably been larger in proportion to population than the number for any other county in Ireland.

No other games but Gaelic games have ever taken root in Royal Meath. It is the only county north of the halfway line in which hurling has gripped the countryside. A Leinster football selection is now incomplete without a Meath man or two, and some of the Meath hurlers have also been selected for Leinster.

During the last fifteen or sixteen years Meath has never fallen from the first rank in football. In 1926 Meath senior footballers struck the hardest luck when they drew with Kildare in the Leinster final only to go out on the replay a week later. Since then they have again drawn with Kildare.

BEAT THE CHAMPIONS.

The greatest achievement of the Meath footballers, since the days of the Navan Mahony team, was in 1933, when, after a magnificent tussle at Croke Park they won the National League final by beating the self-same Cavan team that had won the All-Ireland Championship a few weeks before. In football Meath has come to the top and means to stay there.

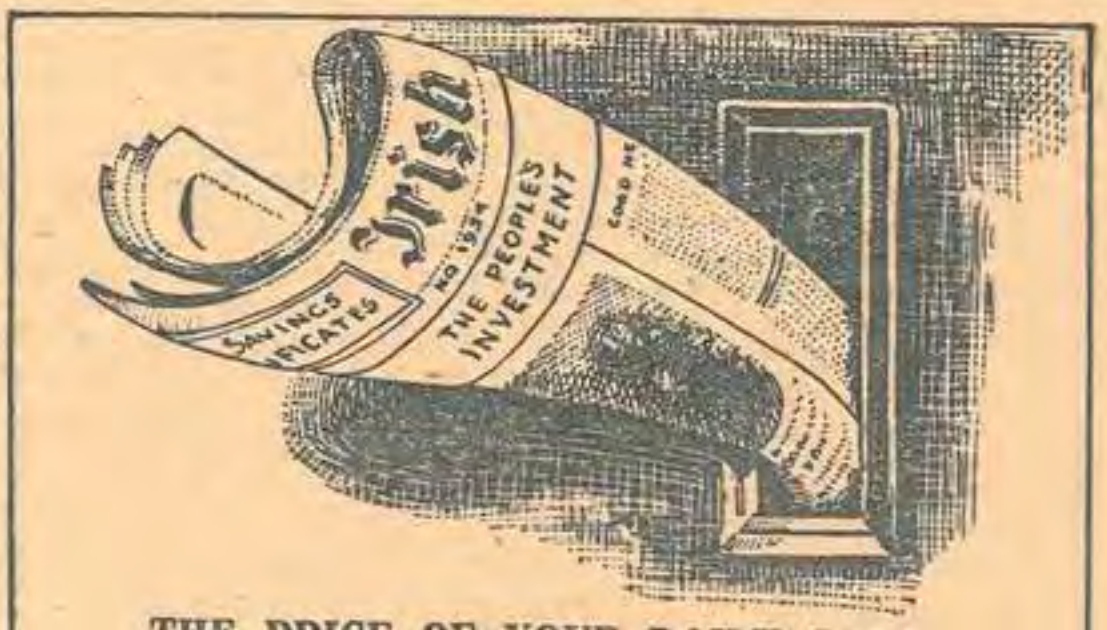
HURLING HONOURS.

Hurling has had firm roots in Meath for nearly a generation. Dunboyne, Ratoath, and Kilmessan were early exponents of the game, and profited by their proximity to Dublin. Over at the other end of the county Athboy and Kells reached new heights, and for years past the Kells Erin's Own team have set a higher standard than hurling ever before attained in Co. Meath.

In 1927 Meath won its first All-Ireland title, in Junior Hurling, when, after a drawn game with Dublin in the Leinster final, the Meath boys went on to qualify for the All-Ireland semi-final with Limerick, and so passed on to the final against Galway, which they won on a replay. Two years later the Minor hurlers won the Leinster Championship.

All-Ireland honours are not above the reach of Meath in both hurling and football. But whatever may happen in the luck of the championships, Meath will still play the games of the Gael. The recent acquisition of the splendid grounds at Navan as the sole property of the G.A.A. is a new milestone on the country's onward march.

TARA.



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A Famous Meath Team

THE MULLINGAR COMMERCIALS, 1905.

REVIVAL AFTER A LULL

LEITRIM

Chairman—Rev. A. Lynch.

Secretary—Mr. S. O'Heslin, N.T., P.C., Ballinamore.

Colours—Green and Gold.

SITUATED on the high ridges between Ulster, Leinster, and Connacht, Leitrim is to some extent nobody's child from a G.A.A. standpoint.

Her hurling resources are practically nil. Spasmodic efforts to revive the national pastime at Mohill and Manorhamilton met with little support.

Gaelic football did far better, and a few years ago Leitrim sent out teams the equal in strength and resource of any in the country. The remoteness of players from good playing pitches, owing to the mountainous nature of the country, was a big handicap.

Railway facilities to centres of big population were scant. Opportunities of seeing the games played at their best were infrequent, yet scattered groups of enthusiasts kept football alive under the greatest difficulties.

First to come into the limelight were the O'Neills of Bornacoola, to be followed by another rural team of Gortalettra. A sturdy side was, meanwhile, being built up at Fenagh. These were called after a local saint—St. Cailin—and won many championships, sending out useful fifteens to inter-county competitions.

Mohill and Ballinamore now took a hand in the scheme, and won the 1913 and 1914 titles, to be followed by Eslin in 1915 and 1916. Aughnasheelan won the 1918 championship, which provided good competition. About this time Feenagh returned to their old strength, winning outright in 1917 and 1919.

THE WAR-TIME LULL.

Like many another county, the Gaels of Leitrim forsook the football and caman in 1920 and 1921 for more serious national work, and little interest was centered in games for several years.

Drumreilly proved the strongest footballers in 1924, and were followed by Gorvagh. These were powerful athletes, who set the pace for the best fifteens in Connacht.

Leitrim's county selection finished second to Mayo in the Connacht League of 1926, and so rapid was their improvement that the highest Western honours fell to them a few years later.

Through Leitrim's best years, good administrative work was done by Felim McGovern, of Ballinamore; T. Gannon, and P. Murray, who represented Leitrim on the Western Councils. Their registered colours are the national tricolour blend—green, white collar and cuffs, gold centre hoop.

At the moment Leitrim has a dozen thriving clubs, and the equipment of playing pitches is occupying the attention of their Councils.

SLIEVE BEAG.

GREAT BIDS FOR PREMIER TITLE

MONAGHAN

Chairman—Mr. P. Duffy.

Secretary—Mr. M. Markey, Rosdreenagh, Carrickmacross.

Colours—White and Blue.

THE period 1927 to 1933 covers the period when Monaghan made tremendous efforts to reach the All-Ireland final, culminating in the unsuccessful effort of 1930.

In the years 1927 to 1933 Monaghan had a host of county players whose names are familiar on the Gaelic fields of Ulster, and some who are well nown far beyond the confines of the Northern province. Paddy Kilroy, Christy Fisher, Tommie Shevlin, Billy Mason, Joe Farrell, Jemmie Duffy are but a few of the outstanding players on one of the best teams that represented the county for a long time.

In the 1927 Ulster Competitions Monaghan defeated Donegal in the final of the Dr. McKenna Cup, and, having wrested the laurels from Cavan in the semi-final of the Ulster Championship, went on to beat Armagh in the final and capture the premier Ulster honours. Monaghan then met Kildare—who subsequently won the All-Ireland Championship of that year—in the semi-final, and after a great effort at Drogheda the Ulster representatives were defeated.

A MEMORABLE DAY.

Killeevan Sarsfields, an outstanding team, won the County Championship in 1927. The Sarsfields appear to have fallen on evil days at the moment, but we can rest assured that the resurgent spirit of the Gael will assert itself again in a truly Gaelic parish, and that in keeping with the traditions of the past, the Sarsfields will carry their colours to victory again.

Owing to the fact that the 1928 semi-final of the Ulster Championship (Monaghan v. Armagh) was played on the same date as the Army v. Garda match at Dublin—in which six of Monaghan's players were engaged—the County Committee were not able to field the team properly for this match, and Monaghan went out before Armagh. It is to the everlasting credit of the six players concerned that they made the journey of 60 miles from Dublin to Carrickmacross to play for the county, and arrived on the teams were lining up, but the fatigue of the journey and the hardship of playing a second match told its tale before the game was finished.

Monaghan again won the Dr. McKenna Cup in 1928, defeating Antrim in the final. The county team fared badly in the opening stages of the National League, but, encountering Kildare in the closing stages, the Ulstermen held the All-Ireland champions to a draw in a memorable game at Carrickmacross.

MOST REV. DR. McKENNA, Bishop of Clogher, donor of the Dr. McKenna Cup, a well-known Ulster Trophy.

In the county competitions Corcaghan Gaels won the 1928 Senior Final, having defeated the southern representatives, Carrickmacross Emmets.

A GREAT TUSSLE.

The final of the Ulster Championship of 1929 is memorable in the history of the G.A.A. in Monaghan. Early in the year the county team failed before Armagh in the finals of the Dr. McKenna Cup and Dean Keown Cup. The team was making a poor showing in the National League, and all things considered it looked as if Monaghan could not make any stand in the Ulster Championship.

The team nevertheless scrambled through to the final, when Monaghan were called on to meet their old rivals, Cavan.

Cavan had a home venue—Breffni Park—where in one of the most memorable struggles in the history of Gaelic football in Ulster the long whistle found the teams level. What Monaghan man that witnessed that epic struggle will ever forget the herculean efforts of Peter Lambe and Tommie Shevlin to stem the Cavan onslaughts in the closing stages of the game, the generalship of Kilroy, the long raking drives of Billy Mason, or the crafty opportunism of Fisher.

The replay was fixed for Carrickmacross, where, before 10,000 people, the Ulster title was won by Monaghan. The sustained efforts of the team to win the Ulster Championship had its effects when Monaghan met Kildare in the semi-final. The fire and vigour so evident against Cavan were lacking against Kildare, and the All-Ireland champions emerged easy winners.

Killevan won the Senior League Championship of that year.

WHEN KILDARE WENT DOWN.

In 1930 Monaghan again met Cavan in the Ulster Final, but owing to an unfortunate dispute over the venue, the Breffni men were not at full strength, and Monaghan won easily. The County Committee decided to put the team in training for the semi-final, and after a fortnight's vigorous training the Monaghan men defeated Kildare at Croke Park, and thus for the first time in the history of the G.A.A. the county team reached the All-Ireland Final.

Monaghan had not an earthly chance against Kerry in that match; but any other county team in Ireland would have been defeated by Kerry in the All-Ireland Final of that year. Undoubtedly other county teams would have made a better stand, but with Kerry at the top of their form, and fielding one of the best teams that ever represented their county, it is not conceivable that they would be beaten by any team on that occasion. It was Monaghan's first appearance in an All-Ireland Final, and their first time to meet a Kerry team; and these facts make the failure of the Northmen understandable.

Monaghan met Louth in the National League two weeks after the final, but owing to the disorganisation following on the result of the final, the team was not at all at full strength, and Louth won. Complete collapse followed, and the team made a very poor display in the remaining National League fixtures.

THE WARD CUP.

The 1930 Senior League Final was delayed until the middle of 1931, when Latton won the title from Killevan. A new and successful competition was inaugurated by the County Committe during thise year for a beautiful cup presented by that great Monaghan Gael, Mr. Owen Ward, of London.

The competition was run on the knock-out system betwen the Senior teams, and aroused great enthusiasm throughout the county, Killevan emerging winners after a great struggle in the final with the Killanny Geraldines.

The Ward Cup competition was very successful in 1931, and in a great game at Carrickmacross the 'Blayney Faughs wrested the cup from Killevan. The Faughs also won the Senior County Championship.

In 1932 the county team made a poor show in the Ulster Championship, going out before Cavan in the semi-final after a poor game at Belturbet. Towards the end of the season the team showed up better, and in a good game at Carrickmacross won the Dr. McKenna Cup from Armagh.

The Ward Cup competition brought new life to a team famous in the annals of the G.A.A. in Monaghan-Donaghmoyne Fontenoys. Having disposed of Carrick and Killanny in the first and second rounds, they went on to beat 'Blayney in the final. The Faughs retained the Senior County title.

FOUR-COUNTY LEAGUE.

In 1933 Father Murray, of Dundalk, inaugurated one of the most successful inter-county competitions functioning under the G.A.A.—the four county league—between Louth, Meath, Armagh and Monaghan. Monaghan made a good showing in the opening games, defeating Armagh twice, and Meath once.

In a second game against Meath at Navan, Monaghan were beaten by one point, but the team failed badly in the closing stages of the competition against Louth. In the Ulster competition Monaghan went out in the first rounds of the Dr. McKenna Cup and the Ulster Championship in 1933.

Inniskeen Rovers came to the front in the Senior League in 1933, and battled their way successfully into the final, when they met the 'Blayney Faughs. In a great game the Faughs won by a point.

The Ward Cup competition in 1933 was again very successful, but owing to a dispute over the venue for the final, this game was abandoned, and Donaghmoyne Fontenoys still retain the Cup.

Dr. Conn Ward presented a Gold Cup for competition between the Junior clubs, run on the knock-out system. This competition proved highly successful, Scotstown winning the trophy.

MONAGHAN MAN.

VENUE OF FIRST HURLING FINAL

OFFALY

Chairman—Mr. P. D. Crowley, N.T.
Secretary—Mr. S. Cloonan, O'Moore St., Tullamore.
Colours—Green, White and Gold.

OFFALY'S fidelity to the G.A.A. is not to be judged merely by the roll of championship winners.

Away back in the 'eighties, Offaly was one of the first to fall into line. In 1886, when Michael Cusack had not yet enrolled more than seventy affiliated clubs, Shinrone was one of the number. [Yet, curiously enough, it was almost forty years before Shinrone inscribed its name on the records of Offaly's county champions, when the hurlers of the parish won the County Junior Championship of 1924.]

A tower of strength to the movement in those early days was Father Langan, of Banagher. In 1887, when a County Board was formed, he became Chairman, with Mr. P. White, of Birr, as Secretary. Another priest who was an untiring worker in those days was Father Concannion, who was elected to the Central Council at the All-Ireland Convention held in November, 1887, to reconstruct the Association after the split that followed the "Stormy Convention." Offaly was one of the 19 counties represented at that peace convention.

The early enthusiasm in the county weakened in the years that followed. In 1889 Offaly was unable to field a team in the Leinster Championships, and was forced to give a walk-over to Laoighis. There was no improvement for several years, and Offaly sent neither a delegate to the All-Ireland Conventions nor a team to the Championships between 1889 and 1896. But most other counties were equally apathetic during those years of disappointment following the political discords.

In 1896, however, the revival came with a bang. Mr. Charles Doorley became secretary of the County Board, and Mr. R. P. Dolan, of Tullamore, was the county's representative on the Central Council (which then consisted of representatives from each county). The same year the county championships were set going, Killoughey winning the honours in hurling, while Tullamore won the football championship, which it did not relinquish until the men of Rhode wrested the title in 1900.

COOLDERRY ON TOP.

In hurling, Coolderry has been the dominant force, having nearly a score of county titles to its credit, and never having been longer than three years out of the honours. Kinnitty has proved its nearest and most persistent rival, with Drumcullen a good third.

In football, Tullamore and Rhode have for nearly forty years been the outstanding exponents. Except for an occasional raid on the title made by Quarrymount, Geashill, Cloghan, Daingean, Banagher, and Killeigh, these two parishes have monopolised the football championship.

For several years past, so popular have the games become that junior, intermediate, and minor divisions have had to be inaugurated to cater for the youth, while the schools and the teachers are doing their share.

Offaly is amongst the comparatively few counties of which it can be said that both hurling and football are growing in strength. It is, however, as a hurling county that Offaly has made its name, especially in recent years.

Offaly has yet to win an All-Ireland or a Leinster Senior Championship. In Junior hurling, however, Offaly's record of Leinster Championships is second only to that of Kilkenny, having won in 1915, 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1929. In 1929 the Offaly men went on to win the county's first All-Ireland title. Emigration has taken a heavier toll of Gaelic talent from Offaly than from any other county. This is proved by the fact that in America the Offaly teams occupy a dominant position, far higher than that of the home county in the All-Ireland Championships. As champions of New York State, the Offaly men gave Tipperary the first and one of the hardest games during the All-Ireland Hurling Champions' tour of the United States in 1926.

The Gaels of Offaly are bent upon achieving the honour of inscribing their county's name on the All-Ireland Cups. This jubilee year may see them surprise their more renowned neighbours. Since Birr got its splendid new grounds, destined to make the old town (which staged the first All-Ireland Hurling final ever played (Tipperary v. Galway in 1888), the scene of many epic battles between East and West and Mid. and South, the boys of Offaly have become familiar with the greatest hurlers of the age, and the benefit of such exhibitions will not be lost.

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BEAT GALWAY HURLERS IN 1906

ROSCOMMON

Chairman—Mr. S. P. O'Grady.
Secretary—Mr. T. S. O'Farrell, Ballinheglish.
Colours—Green and Black, White Collars and Cuffs.

WHEN the Gaelic Athletic Association was formed in 1884 nearly every parish in the County Roscommon had its team. At that time the football was made by the local bootmaker by cutting the two ends to the shape of a saucer and sowing them to a centre piece. India rubber

MR. M. BRENNAN, T.D. (Roscommon).

tubes such as are used to-day were unknown. There was no organisation to control the game.

About 1888 the young Association reached the County Roscommon, and the first County Board was established. Mr. Jasper Tully, ex-M.P., was elected Chairman. Mr. Tully continued in the Chair for a number of years, and succeeded in laying the foundation of the present County Board.

Mr. M. H. Grogan, Co C., of Castlerea, was the next President, and he was succeeded by Mr. P. J. Gillooly, now Secretary to the Roscommon County Council.

FIRST HURLING CLUB.

At this time Roscommon footballers were pre-eminent in the province, and hurling was started for the first time. Roscommon Town Club, with which Mr. Gillooly was connected, was the first to start the game. Friendly inter-county games between Roscommon and Mayo were played. Mr. John Silke, Castlerea, was next appointed President, and it was due to his initiative that the first Connacht Council was started. It was then that the first Provincial Championships were held.

In 1905 Roscommon won the Connacht Championship, and afterwards beat Ulster by 1 goal 5 points to 5 points. The same year Roscommon were beaten in the final of the Railway Cup by Kerry, by 1 goal. Mr. J. Rabbitt, Roscommon, was then Secretary. Only twice since then, in 1912 and 1915, did Roscommon win the Connacht Football Championship.

Mr. M. Brennan, T.D., then took up the Presidency, and under him hurling flourished, and Roscommon, represented by Athleague, won the 1906 Connacht Championship, beating Galway in the final. They subsequently went down to Tipperary at Croke Park. The "Irish Independent," in its report of the game, paid a fine tribute to Roscommon's goalkeeper. This was the only time (in 1906) that the Connacht hurling title was wrested from Galway.

Roscommon Junior Football Team won the Connacht Championship in 1932, and beat Cork in the semi-final at Croke Park, but were beaten in the final by Louth.

SOME OF THE FOUNDERS.

The founders of the Association in County Roscommon were, in addition to those already mentioned, J. Rabbitt, George Geraghty, and George McCann, Roscommon; George O'Reilly, P. C. Lennon, and J. Brennan, Strokestown; W. Higgins, M. Kelly, and J. Brennan, Elphin; Edward Casserly, and J. J. McCrann, Creeve; M. O'Hara and Anthony Hicks, Kilbride; P. Harrington and J. Kinelan, Kingsland; the Brothers Feely, Boyle, Dan Haughey, Athleague; M. O'Rourke and J. Feeney, Tulsk; A Casserly and M. Heaney, Tisona.

Recognised amongst the best exponents of the game in Ireland were Henry Hession, Roscommon; M. O'Rourke, Tulsk; M. Heaney, Arthur Casserly, Tisora; Andy Madden, J. Quigley, J. Gilleran, Kilbride; J. Brennan, and W. Furay, Elphin.

For a number of years Elphin Town team was unbeatable, and the first serious challenge they received was from Roscommon Gaels. Mr. M. J. Reilly, Elphin, Chairman for a number of years, did good work for the Association, and in 1917 Father Dan Carney

THE SAM McGUIRE CUP, All-Ireland Football Trophy.

was appointed President. The same year Mr. Peter O'Farrell was appointed Secretary—a position he held up to his resignation at this year's Convention.

Very Rev. Canon Keane, P.P., succeeded Father Carney, and he was followed by Father Tim Quigley, a prominent player on the county team. The present President is Mr. J. F. O'Grady, who is determined to find a county team at least equal to the best in the province.

J. J. LOFTUS.

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BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE

SLIGO

Chairman—Mr. J. P. Brennan.
Secretary—Mr. T. M. Kilcoyne, Ougham, Tubbercurry.
Colours—White and Black.

REMOTE from centres of big population, with considerable difficulties of transport and a comparatively small area, Sligo has not loomed large in the list of Champion Counties. Yet the Association has been active there through many years.

Hurling and football tradition had almost perished in the North-West, and it took years of uphill struggle to bring Sligo to its present strong football position. To-day we are always assured of a hard hour against the Mayo and Galway leaders of the West. About eight years ago Sligo were on level terms in talent with Ireland's leading dozen counties, and they sent out such polished footballers as the Colleran Brothers, Kilcoyne, Henry, and White, all fit for an All-Ireland selection.

Available records take us back to 1905, when the Ballymote Round Towers won the Championship. Sligo Town produced some smart football teams. The Wanderers came into prominence in 1908 and won for three successive years. Gurteen and Killavilla had useful seventeens in this period, and Enniscrone came into the picture from 1914 to 1916.

HURLING'S STRUGGLE.

A few junior hurling teams were active in 1905, '6, '7, '8, and 1909, when the Dromod O'Growneys and Sligo Wanderers had good contests.

The hurling game faded in Sligo round 1910, but has been revived in recent years. At present four hurling teams are affiliated.

Early in the 'twenties Gaelic football became very popular in County Sligo. Tubbercurry pulled a powerful fifteen out. Between them and Moylough the closest rivalry was preserved for half-a-dozen stirring years.

Tubbercurry held the Senior Championship for 1917 and 1918, until Moylough's smart younsters ran into a long winning sequence, capturing the Championship in four successive years from 1919 to 1923.

Mr. M. B. Henry, N.T., of Ballymote, had the onerous duty of Secretary for twenty years and had much to say to the development of Gaelic games in Sligo. He was appointed President of the County Board in 1926 when his club were County Champions, and he continued in charge of Sligo's affairs until 1932, when he resigned in favour of M. Jennings, of Collooney, who held the chair for two years before the return appointment of P. J. Brennan, the present chairman.

A SLIGO STAR.

Having gone into the football final with Mayo in the Connacht Championship of 1920, Sligo were beaten by a narrow score. In 1922 they played a fast drawn game with Galway, but lost the replay. They had a marathon series of four games with Roscommon in 1924-5, and again ran Mayo close in the 1926 Championship (2-6 to 1-3).

At this period the Colleran group attracted All-Ireland interest by their polished football, and Paddy Colleran was honoured with his place in the Tailteann selection of 1928, where he distinguished himself at midfield.

Sligo reached their best form in 1927, when they won the Senior Connacht League and defeated the ultimate National winners, Leix. Emigration and some local troubles weakened Sligo for some years. Ballysodare won the 1932 championship and Knockalassa are the current holders.

With Rev. J. Colleran, of Curry, as President, future prospects are bright. Mr. T. Kilcoyne has been elected Co. Secretary for the tenth successive year, and there are now 44 affiliated teams in the county—8 in Senior Football, 25 in Junior Football, 7 in Minor Football, and 4 Hurling Clubs. Mr. Kilcoyne is a painstaking Secretary with a fine National outlook, and Sligo hopes to play prominently through the Jubilee Year.

WESTERN.

IN THE CRADLE OF THE ASSOCIATION

TIPPERARY

Chairman—Rev. J. J. Meagher, C.C.
Secretary—Mr. J. Leahy, Tubberadora, Holycross, Thurles.
Colours—Royal Blue with Gold Band.

"I love you, Tipperary, for the sake of Knockmealdown,
And smiling Slievenamon, that never wore a frown."
—B. O'Higgins.

TIPPERARY is the cradle county of the Gaelic Athletic Association, the theatre of its boyhood, and the playground of its manhood. In and since the days of Archbishop Croke and his Gael-friend from Carrick-on-Suir, it presents a history that is fresh, attractive, and unique.

"Where are you going?" a Dublin companion once asked Mr. Cusack. "I'm going to a hurling match," he replied, "in Tipperary, the steadfast upholder of our national games and pastimes. Come along with me," he continued, "a Tipperary championship is as good as a championship of Ireland. You'll hear in addition the big drum of Knocknagow, and you'll see the new Erin that we have resurrected."

That such a tribute was deserved is confirmed by old Gaels now in the even-tide of life; that it was made possible is due to the brave and resolute Archbishop of Cashel—the fairest flower then blooming 'mongst the Irish Hierarchy

Under Gaelic rules the first hurling match in the county was played at Nenagh. With a team drawn from Silvermines, Carrigatoher, Nenagh, Knigh, Ardcroney, Gurthmore, Lorrha, and Kilbarron, the North Tipp. hurlers had the honour also of winning the first inter-county match under the Association.

It is clear from the files of newspapers that the game had not died in the Ormonde baronies, and the same, indeed, must have been true of the O'Dogarty country, since nothing else can explain the proficiency and caman craft so early found in Thurles, Moycarkey, and Two-Mile-Borris.

A Famous Hurler

DENNY MAHER, Killinan, Co. Tipperary, captain of the first of All-Ireland Tipperary Hurling Championship in 1887.

A DAVIN'S CHALLENGE.

South Tipperary is credited with being the home of football, and fully aroused was vehement as the Suir in flood; hence Pat Davin's challenge in early '85, to any twenty-one footballers in Ireland. Of hurlers the pick of Tipperary in the eighties were: Stapleton, Callanan, and the Mahers of Thurles; O'Grady, O'Brien, Ryan, and Leahy, Moycarkey; Healy, Dwyer, and Stapleton, Two-Mile-Borris; Dwyer, Flanagan, and Stack, Boherlahan; Byrne, Ryan, and Kennedy, Clonoulty; Ryan (Clery), Cahill, Kiely, and O'Meara, Holy Cross; the Leamys of Drombane; Dunne of Gortnahoe; the Cleesons, and Hill of Silvermines; Reidy of Carrigatoher; Walsh of Nenagh; the O'Mearas of Lorrha; Harty of Borrisoleigh; and Looby of Toomevara.

The celebrities of football were: Cummins, Fethard; the Ryans, Cranly, and Kavanagh, Bohercrowe; Ryan (Building), Anacarty; the Quanes and Gubbins, Rosanna; Barry and Ryan, Loughmore, Davern and Hynes, Templemore; Power, Clonmel; Hennessy, Cahir, Lee Aherlow; O'Keeffe, Carrick; and Lyons, O'Shea, and Meagher, Grangemockler.

In athletics likewise, Tipperary was then "dignity." To prove this one has but to mention the Davin Brothers of Carrick; the tall and stately Mitchell of Emly, and the renowned Tom Kiely.

Everything Gaelic went smash with the Parnell "Split" in politics.

The silence was broken in 1894, and Tipp's return to the Association was like the Prodigal's return to his father's home. Enthusiasm ran "riot" again, and the County's record for 1895 was the double All Ireland. In hurling the honour goes to Tubberadora, and in football to the Arravale Rovers from the old Clanwilliam barony town.

It is worth noting that the finals of this championship took place in what is now the National Stadium—Croke Park. To the end of the century, and including 1900, Jones's Road has left happy memories for Tipperary Gaeldom. Our hurlers were unmatchable. Three times in all Tubberadora breasted the peak of triumph, to be followed once each by Horse and Jockey and Two-Mile-Borris. The performance of the Arravale Rovers was repeated by Clonmel Shamrocks. Once more "dignity"; and once again chaos!

The Shamrocks were suspended. It was a sad sentence, that which sent a gallant team to its doom.

HURLERS WITHOUT PEER.

Prominent amongst the hurlers of this generation would be.—Mikey Maher, John and Denis Walsh, Ned Brennan, and the Scanlans of Tubberadora; Tim Condon, Billy Gleeson, Mike Wall, and Jim Keeffe, of the Jockey; Paddy Maher, Ned Hayes, and Tom Allen of Two-Mile-Borris; Fergus Moriarty, of Drombane, and Danny Morrissey, of Suir View.

The "mighty" of football were:—Willie Ryan and Bob Quane, of Arravale

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"THE TIPPERARY STAR"

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UNDER PERSONAL SUPERVISION

TIPPERARY

(Continued from Previous Page.)

Rovers; the Tobins, of Clonmel; Paddy Wall, of Carrick; Jim Cooney and Tom Kiely, of Grangemockler. Not many know to-day that Tipperary's great athlete, was as big an ornament to the football arena as he was to athletics.

The Thurles "Blues," led by Captain Tom Semple, replaced the old "reliables" in 1906. With the team must be associated the name of Canon M. K. Ryan. Inborn beauty and brainy fieldcraft were the chief characteristics of Semple's hurlers, whose reign, though short, supplies us with a memory and a wonderful history that still lingers. They brought Tipperary from the valley of shadows, dispersed the mist, and won two more National titles in a great epoch of hurling.

I would mention the following as worthy of notice: John Fitzgerald, Glengoole;

TIM GLEESON, OF DROMBANE;

Bob Mockler, Horse and Jockey; Rev. M. O'Dwyer, Holy Cross; Jimmy Burke, Two-Mile-Borris; Tom Semple, Paddy Burke, Tim Gleeson, Paddy Riordan, Jack Mockler, Hugh Shelly, Jack Mooney, Tom Kerwick, and Paddy Broian, Thurles.

A pair of suns do not usually shine in the same firmament, but, following the decay of the "Blues," there appeared Toomevara and Boherlahan, at the height of their power together. Had Michael Cusack seen their struggles for supremacy he would surely have said that Tipperary hurling now excelled even the All-Ireland. Unfortunately for the county and fortunately for outsiders there was poor agreement over championship selections.

To win the Croke Memorial medals was a signal triumph for the Toomevara "greyhounds," and with hurling, too, that shed lustre on the National pastime. Though Toomevara still awaits its All-Ireland, there was such skill and worth in the combination that we must rank it with the "monarchs" of the past. Those "hall-marked" for remembrance are: Wedger Meagher, Frank McGrath, Bill Kelly, Ned Guilmartin, Jack O'Meara, Stephen Hackett, Darby Collison, and Jack Harty.

Boherlahan's maiden effort for the Gaelic title was in 1916, and met with unbounded success. Johnny Leahy, worthy scion of a fine old stock, had charge of the company, which is set down as the crack regiment of Tipperary, for the reason that its attack was like a storm sweeping Slievenamon. The team toured the North American Continent in 1926, but its challenge to the exiles received only a languid reply. In the destinies of his team, the Boherlahan "skipper" was aided by his brothers—four of them having All-Ireland medals—Arthur O'Donnell, Joe Nagle, Pat and Willie Dwyer, the Power brothers, and Jack Doherty. From outside clubs by—Joe Fitzpatrick, John Joe Hayes, and Martin Mockler, Two-Mile-Borris; Jimmy Murphy, Bill Ryan, Patk. Spillane, and Tom Shanahan, Moycarkey; the brothers Dwan, and Phil Cahill, Holy Cross; Father John Cleary and Martin Kennedy, Toomevara; and the Darcy brothers of Nenagh.

THE IRISH TRIPLE CROWN.

Tipperary's history of glorious and tragic memories closes with 1930—a never-to-be-forgotten year, sung of by a Fethard poet in the words:

"Tiobrad Arann Abú! Tiobrad Arann Abú!
That's our watchword, and war-cry for aye;
For Tipperary's brave men from the hill and glen,
Are the champions of Ireland to-day"

Yes! the "triple crown" was brought home with a finish and a mastery unequalled since the days of immortal Tubberadora. Thurles selected for the senior hurling and had as its leading lights, Tommy Treacy, Phil Purcell, Tom O'Meara, Paul McKenna, John Joe Callanan, John Maher, and Jim Lanigan.

In football Tipperary's career has been more in the shade than the sun. Against eleven All-Irelands in hurling we have only four in football. In the latter the county was last heard of in 1920. The recollection of the proud old victor field of that year leaves us the following to treasure: Ned O'Shea, Gus McCarthy, Fethard; Jerry Shelly, Mick Arrigan, Mick Tobin, Dick Lanigan, Grangemockler; Vincent Vaughan, Bill Barrett, Mick Nolan, Jimmy Doran, Mullinahone; Tommy Ryan, Tommy Powell, Clonmel; Jim McNamara, Cahir; Arthur Carroll, Bill Grant, Templemore; Jim and Willie Ryan, Castleiny.

Perhaps the jubilee year will see us again walk the path to fame. In both codes the time is ripe to hear the "Shouts of no surrender arise upon the gale."

"MID-TIPP. GAEL."

M. J. BOWE'S

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TUBBERADORA, ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS 1895 AND 1896.

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In 1905 the Great Southern Railway Company presented the Railway Shields for competition between the four provinces, the champion county having the right of selection in each province, the Shields to become the property of the province which should win twice in succession or three times in all.

HURLING FINALS.

1905—Leinster (Kilkenny selection) won.
1906—Munster (Tipperary selection) won.
1907—Leinster (Kilkenny selection) won.
1908—Leinster (Kilkenny selection) won.

The Shield thus becomes Kilkenny's property and now hangs in the Council Chamber, Kilkenny.

FOOTBALL FINALS.

1905—Leinster won.
1906—Munster (Kerry selection), 2-10; Connacht (Roscommon), 2-2.
1907—Munster (Kerry selection), 1-7; Leinster (Dublin selection), 1-6.

The Football Shield thus becomes Kerry's property.

ULSTER'S BLANK

The All-Ireland Football Championship has now gone to each of the four provinces. The hurling championship has gone to three—Ulster's turn not having yet come.

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TIRCONAILL

Chairman—Mr. Sean Cassidy, N.T.

Secretary—Mr. J. Maguire, Bundoran.

Colours—Green and White.

JUBILEE Year finds the Land of the O'Donnells in an impregnable position as a unit of the Gaelic Athletic Association. From very small beginnings—from the time when it had perforce "to count the hearts and not the heads"—Tirconaill has slowly but surely progressed to the position it now holds—namely, one of the very strong links in the G.A.A. chain.

The call to "fall in" came in 1905, when a gallant little band succeeded in forming a committee and getting the movement under way. The first president was the Very Rev. Canon Maguire, D.D., late P.P. of Carrick. The first secretary was Mr. Alec McDyer, N.T., Glenties, who, happily, is still with us. On the committee, with others whose names are not recorded, was the present Town Clerk of Bundoran, Mr. Edward Daly, who afterwards was chairman of a committee of the Association in South Donegal, and has the same position on the committee now controlling affairs in that area, and he is representative of the county on the Ulster Council.

The newly-formed county committee organised county championships in football and hurling, the football champions in 1905 being Lamb Dergs, Letterkenny, and, in 1906, The Bal Dergs, Donegal, the runners-up being Killygordon. In hurling the first champions, 1906, were Hibernians, Burt, and the runners-up Old Celts, Ardaghy. In 1907 Sinn Fein Bundoran were champions and Burt were their opponents in the final.

In September, 1906, the chairmanship of the County Committee became vacant when Very Rev. Canon Maguire, who was then curate in Ardaghy, was appointed President of St. Eunan's College. The present parish priest of Tamney, Very Rev. Canon Gallagher, succeeded him in Ardaghy, and was President of the County Committee in 1906 and 1907. Seumas MacManus was President during 1908 and 1909.

Records show that championships were not completed after 1907 and activities were confined to inter-team competition. From 1909 on, there are few records relating to the games; they were lost during "the troubled times." The present generation, however, honours the memory of the pioneers of the movement in the county and have as a perpetual remembrance of their first president a very valuable trophy, "The Dr. Maguire Memorial Cup," which is offered annually for competition among the senior football teams of the county.

REORGANISING THE COUNTY.

A movement at re-organisation was made in 1919 by General Eoin O'Duffy, who was then Secretary of the Ulster Council. A meeting was held at Letterkenny by representatives from Burtonport, Letterkenny, Bundoran, and Killygordon. The late S. O'Flaherty, who was later Secretary of the Co. Board of Health, was elected President, and Mr. Sean Curran, Letterkenny, was appointed Secretary.

The first match was played at Dungloe on June 29, 1919. The next match was played at Killybegs between Burtonport, which comprised players from Glenties, and Bundoran who were the victors. The newly-organised committee revived the championships, and these have been completed annually to the present year.

It is interesting to compare the finances of the Board in 1920 with those of the year now closed. In 1920 receipts were £3 11s. 9d. and expenditure stood at £42 odd, comparing respectively with £740 and £469 in 1933.

In 1922 Mr. Sean Cassidy, N.T., Ardara, was elected chairman, and Mr. Sean Connaghan, Glenties, treasurer. Mr. Cassidy, who still fills the position, has an almost continuous service as chairman, Mr. Connaghan has an unbroken record since his first appointment. To the organising ability of these two gentlemen is mainly due the success that has attended the reorganised County Committee.

In all, including the 1905 period, 16 county championships in football have been decided as follows:—Ardara, 3; Ballyshannon, 2; Bundoran, 1; Castlefin, 1; Donegal, 2; Dungloe, 3; Kilcar, 1; Killygordon, 1, and Letterkenny, 2. Dunagloe are holders.

The hurling championships, ten in number, have been decided as follows:—Burt, 1; Bundoran, 1; Ballyshannon, 2; Letterkenny, 4; Finner Camp, 12th Battalion, 1, and Newtowncunningham, 1.

Three Junior football championships were decided, Glenties getting 2 and Stranorlar one. In recent years Minor championships have been completed, Letterkenny winning once in hurling, and once in football. Gweedore are the present holders of the Minor football championship, while Burt and Ballyshannon are to compete for the Minor hurling title in the near future.

A HUGE AREA TO COVER.

The question of organisation has caused much worry to successive committees. The fact that the county is over eighty miles in length and over fifty in width has not tended towards an easy solution. Nevertheless the problem appears to have been solved. By dividing the county into four well defined areas, and constituting committees to work the affairs of the Association in them, and by appointing a special committee to cater for hurling, all subordinate to the Co. Board, the Central County Authority has ensured the proper carrying out of the competitions and caused the spread of the movement to the remotest parts of its jurisdiction.

There are now 37 clubs, and the nightmare of financial worry no longer haunts the officials of the Board, who can boast of net cash assets of over £100, in addition to valuable trophies valued at £160. The County Football Championships are usually decided at Glenties or Ardara, and it is pleasant to listen to the goodly number of spectators who urge on their favourites with Gaelic slogans. The hurling finals are generally played at Letterkenny, and in these, as in the football series, enthusiastic scenes are witnessed.

FIRST ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIP.

Since 1919 the county has figured in inter-county contests, and has many victories to its credit. In 1923 the county selection representative of Inishowen, the stronghold of hurling, and Letterkenny and Ballyshannon won the Ulster Championship, to be defeated by Limerick, representing Munster in the All-Ireland semi-final. Again in 1932, after a great game with Antrim, holders for nine years, the championship came to Tirconaill.

This jubilee year great deeds are foreshadowed by the hurling committee. In inter-county senior football Ulster honours have evaded the county's grasp. When, however, the county was graded junior at its own request in 1930 it won the Ulster junior title and the North-Eastern section in the National League.

1933 has witnessed wonderful enthusiasm in the county, as the team, after winning out in Ulster and defeating Cork, the Munster representatives in the semi-final, figured in a great game at Croke Park in the final with Mayo, who won out.

In all other branches of G.A.A. activity the county is well to the fore, organising handball and camogie competitions, organising Irish dances, registering its players in Irish, and advertising its matches in the national language, and supporting Irish manufacture. Tirconaill is a tower of strength to the leaders of the G.A.A. in making "Eire not merely free, but Gaelic as well."

"GARTAN."

PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS

TYRONE

Chairman—Rev. J. McGilligan, C.C.

Secretary—Mr. M. Cooney, Ardboe, Stewartstown.

Colours—White with Red Hand

THE County of O'Neill, heavily planted by a race strange to Gaelic traditions, where the principal landholders were unfriendly to native games, where hurling and any semblance of Gaelic football were dead for generations, was a difficult ground for G.A.A. pioneers to cultivate.

It is only in recent years that Tyrone has come into its legitimate place in Gaelic activities. Yet so rapid has recent progress been that the future of the games in that historic county of the Red Hand is assured.

By recent victories over Donegal, Derry, and Fermanagh, Tyrone footballers have come into the forefront, and they are now a force in all Ulster competitions.

It is not so many years ago that Tyrone became regularly represented at the G.A.A. annual Congress. I remember a roll-call at Croke Park about ten years ago. Counties were called in order,

"Tyrone," said the secretary.

"Annso," came in sharp Northern accents from a back seat. Many delegates looked round.

"Name, please," said the secretary.

"O'Neill, of course," was the crisp reply.

And this was Mr. J. O'Neill, Tyrone, who has been the life and soul of the G.A.A. in its uphill fight through the fastnesse of Owen Rua, Hugh and Sean the Proud. And becoming enough were the first officially registered colours of the county—white, with Red Hand on breast.

THE FIRST CHAMPIONS.

It was the Faughs of Strabane who won the first recorded championship in 1905. Clubs were still few. Lamh Deargs of Strabane won the hurling title of 1906, but that section lapsed completely until 1921, when the Brian Oges of Cookstown had a vigorous team.

Football was a more acceptable vogue, but here, too, there were immense difficulties to be overcome. Strabane and Cookstown continued to hold the leading teams, and in their inter-county contests they were outclassed by such strong Northern teams as Cavan, Antrim, Armagh, and Monaghan.

Mr. M. Cooney, of Stewartstown, did yeoman work as county secretary, and Mr. J. O'Neill, of Dungannon, as member of the Ulster and Central Councils, kept Tyrone on the Gaelic map by word and purse and pen. His contribution to Congress debates were always welcome; precise and pointed, his subtle wit brought many a smile during dry debates of facts and figures.

The Harps of Stewartstown, the Clarkes of Dungannon, and St. Kierans of Ballygawley ran strong teams in the early 'twenties, and there was soon a great awakening of Gaelic football spirit in Tyrone. So strong was Tyrone's Senior football team in 1925 that they ran Cavan to a score of 1-5 to 1-3. This represents good football.

Their Juniors were very forward, too, and ran into the provincial final on more than one occasion.

It was the North-West League which brought along the struggling Tyrone clubs. Well matched with Fermanagh, Donegal, and Derry, the Tyrone boys won many games, but never played such good football as in recent months.

Well equipped playing pitches at Stewartstown, Omagh, and Dungannon have helped the game, and the clubs look forward to further success in the approaching competitions.

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EARLY ATHLETIC PIONEERS

WATERFORD

Chairman—Mr. Liam Walsh,
Secretary—Mr. P. Whelan,
Abbeyside,
Dungarvan.
Colours—Blue.

THE name of the late Dan Fraher, Dungarvan, is inevitably the first that occurs to the mind of anyone who thinks of writing an account of G.A.A. activities in County Waterford during the past forty or fifty years. What the Davins were to Carrick and South Tipperary Dan was to Dungarvan. Not only was Dan Fraher the outstanding athlete of County Waterford for over thirty years, but his personality as an organiser and an inspirer of athletic enthusiasm dominated G.A.A. activities in Co. Waterford until the day of his death.

As far back as 1885 at Piltown he threw the 7lb hammer 69ft. 7ins.; in 1888 he scored notable honours in three counties in the high jump and weight-throwing. The proud possession of Dan was the Championship Belt for the best all-round athlete, a trophy won nearly forty years ago. Bowling, wrestling, vaulting, hurling, football, and handball, he was equally efficient at all. He might be said to be the all-round Gael—native Irish speaker, athlete, and patriot.

Dan Fraher had made a name in Dungarvan as a weight thrower before the advent of the G.A.A. In 1873 he and Pat Morrissey of Killosery, Dungarvan, competed in throwing the 7lb weight. The contest resulted in an easy victory for Dan, whose throw was 73 ft., and Pat Morrissey 71ft. 8ins. Pat Morrissey is still alive and hale and hearty. In 1876 James Dwyer of Carrick-on-Suir, who was trained by the Davin brothers challenged Dan. The contest came off at Leamybrien, Co. Waterford. Dwyer in spiked slippers and with dumb bells did 33 feet 8½ inches. Dan, in an ordinary pair of pegged shoes, and without dumb-bells, was beaten by only 5½ inches.

CHAIRMAN FOR 30 YEARS.

Dan was chairman of the Waterford County Board for 30 years, Frank Drohan, secretary, and Phil Walsh, treasurer. Phil served his business apprenticeship to Dan Fraher from whom he imbibed an unbounded enthusiasm for athletics, a business efficiency which stood him in good stead in every walk of life and a Gaelic spirit that still makes him a valuable asset to the G.A.A. and Irish Ireland in the Decies.

Another Dungarvan man, Tom Barry, held the world's record for the standing long jump (12ft. 7½ins.). James Wall, of Dungarvan, held the world's record in hop, step, and jump. James is still alive, hale and hearty, and resides in Dublin.

The late Patrick Keohan, of Dungarvan, won the International hop, step, and jump championship in America.

Names like Percy Kirwan, Kilmacthomas, and Peter O'Connor, of Waterford, are too familiar to require more than a passing mention. Peter O'Connor's long unbroken record as the world's champion in the running long jump, and Percy Kirwan's marvellous feat at Stockholm in the National Long Jump Championship, gave them world fame as athletes.

THE RISE OF HURLING.

During the first twenty years of the G.A.A activities in County Waterford football, the long and high jump and weight throwing were the chief athletic activities there. County Waterford produced some fine football teams. The Erin's Hope team from Dungarvan in 1898 figured in the All-Ireland Final, but were defeated by Dublin. The enthusiasm for hurling in County Waterford began about 20 years ago, and grew apace until to-day. Waterford City possesses in the Erin's Own hurling team one of the best individual teams in Ireland.

The year 1900 is still remembered in County Waterford by elderly G.A.A. enthusiasts as that of the great athletic contest in Dungarvan between Cork and Tipperary. T. F. Kiely was captain of the Tipperary team, and F. O'Kelly captain of the Cork team. The judges were Maurice Davin, Carrick; the late John Cullinane, M.P., Bansha; T. Dowley and F. Garde, Cork. Dan Fraher was the referee. Tipperary won by 62½ points to Cork's 27½ points.

Liam Walsh of Waterford, the present chairman of the County Board, is a tower of strength to the G.A.A. in the Decies. To him is largely due the outstanding position occupied to-day by Waterford city and county in the G.A.A.

In West Waterford Vin. O'Donoghue, of Lismore Christian Brothers' Schools, is a most enthusiastic worker. Under his guidance and inspiration a fine Irish and athletic spirit has developed in Waterford.

All the Christian Brothers and De La Salle schools in Waterford city and county are centres of G.A.A. activity and enthusiasm. Their boys, in addition to being capable and enthusiastic hurlers, are excellent Irish speakers.

Waterford's jump into the front rank in hurling has been one of the outstanding events in the recent history of the national game. Within five years, with hurling at its best in Munster, Waterford has beaten Limerick, drawn with Cork, drawn with Tipperary, and beaten Tipperary for the championship. Her hurlers feel that the All-Ireland is within their reach. The Jubilee year will see perhaps the greatest effort to capture it.

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WESTMEATH

BIG STRIDES IN RECENT YEARS

Chairman—Mr. J. Garland.

Secretary—Capt. P. Cowan,
77 Casino Road,
Fairview,
Dublin.

Colours—Maroon.

ALTHOUGH spectacular victories in the Championships have not often come its way Westmeath can, nevertheless, boast of a loyal and ever-increasing adherence to the Gaelic Athletic Association.

The first known branch of the Association in Westmeath was formed in Killucan in May, 1885. The seed then sown produced good fruit and the famous Riverstown Emmets and Raherney Rovers, both still flourishng, bear testimony to the splendid foundations laid by the pioneers.

Contemporaneously with its birth in the north of the county a few Athlone men brought the G.A.A. into being on the banks of the Shannon. On Easter Sunday, 1886, a historic match was played at Athlone between Athenry, representing Connacht, and Clara, representing Leinster. The teams were led by P. J. White, Clara, and P. C. Kelly, Athenry, and after an exciting contest the Athenry team was victorious. All the business in connection with the fixture was transacted in Irish.

In 1889 a young athlete, Mr. J. J. King, the present Chief Clerk of Mullingar Mental Hospital, and now a member of the Cusack Memorial Park Committee, founded Mullingar Commercials football team. Other teams were founded about that time, and in a few years Delvin Emmets, Thomastown Rangers, Kilbeggan Volunteers, Kinnegad Slashers, Mullingar Shamrocks, Athlone T. P. O'Connors, Rochfortbridge Warriors, Wooddown Rackers, Derrymore St. Patricks, Raharney Rovers, The Downs Pigeons, Moate Shamrocks, and Moate William O'Briens were going strong.

Challenge or "friendly" matches were frequently arranged, and these were well attended. The desire to have these contests under control led to the establishment of the first Westmeath County Committee in 1891, with Mr. Martin McGreevy, Mullingar, as chairman. The site of the magnificent Cusack Memorial Park in Mullingar was purchased by the present County Committee from Mr. McGreevy, who is still hale, hearty, and interested in the Gaelic movement.

The Westmeath teams took part in tournament matches in neighbouring counties and several travelled to play the Isles of the Sea in Clonturk Park, Dublin. The Castle authorities had suspicions of the growing national force, and detectives kept the teams under surveillance. The Athlone team, returning from Clonturk Park, where they had defeated Isles of the Sea in 1892, threw their particular guardian out of the train.

In 1893 the county football semi-final and final were played on the same day at Robinstown, near Mullingar. In the semi-final Athlone defeated Wooddown Rackers, and after a short rest on the field turned out again and beat Mullingar Commercials in the final. This was a great feat considering that the Athlone team travelled by the night mail train leaving Athlone at 2 a.m. on the day of the match, and, when they arrived in Mullingar, could only secure two beds for the full team. Mr. Martin McGreevy, Chairman of the County Committee, was referee, and he ordered the medals to be given to Athlone.

A REVIVAL.

Mr. J. Mulvey, Secretary of the County Committee and captain of the Mullingar team, refused to do so, as he alleged Athlone were wrongly credited with a score. Angry passions were aroused. The unfortunate incident smashed up the G.A.A. in Athlone, and it was not until 1903 that Athlone, through the efforts of Rev. Fr. Keane, became officially connected with the Association again. A feeling of having been unjustly dealt with still rankles in the minds of old Athlone Gaels, who have never completely forgiven Mullingar since. Mr. Patrick Brett, Trustee of the Cusack Memorial Park, was then a prominent member of the Mullingar Commercials, and the chief Athlone enthusiasts were Jim Campbell, William Walsh, Mick Brazil, Thomas Hogan, Michael Flynn, John Macken, Phil and Joe McManus, Patrick Moore, J. Moran, and John Monohan.

Mr. Joe Moore, P.C., Moate, who was an outstanding county administrator for several years and was captain of the Moate Shamrocks in 1893, is to-day an interesting chronicler of the feats of the Shamrocks.

In 1900 another drive to develop the Gaelic Athletic Association in the county was made by Paddy Murphy, who hailed from Wexford, and William Hughes, of Kinnegad. They re-established the County Committee, which had ceased to function a few years before that, and invited t ams to compete for a set of medals. Rochfortbridge Warriors, Mullingar Young Irelands, Kinnegad Slashers, Ballymore, Moate Stars, Cullion Celtics, Riverstown Emmets, and Athlone Volunteers competed.

Mr. Philip Mullally, Mullingar, was appointed chairman and held office until 1910, ably assisted by B. J. Carroll, of Riverstown, who succeeded him. Mr. Dick Laurence, of Cullion Celtics, was secretary until his departure for America in 1907, and was replaced by Anthony Cunniffe, who was a hardworking officer of the County Committee until 1912. His successor, Mr. P. McHugh, vacated the position in 1914 and Ned Walsh of Ballinea was then appointed. He held office until his death in 9123.

NOTED HURLERS.

From 1901 to 1903 Mullingar Young Irelands were supreme in football, but in 1904 Riverstown Emmets secured the Championship, and, with the exception of the following year, when Athlone Volunteers became champions, held it in spite of great opposition until 1915, when Rochfordbridge Warriors deposed them.

1910 was a memorable year in Westmeath football, and it took three matches to decide the Senior Championship between The Downs and Riverstown. The matches attracted huge crowds, and, by the great interest created, gave a remarkable fillip to football. Since the deposition of Riverstown, seventeen Senior Football Championships have been played. Rochfordbridge won six, Kilbeggan six, Kinnegad one, The Downs one, Athlone one, and Moate, the 1933 champions, one. No championship was played in 1920 or 1922.

Although football always predominated, hurling was popular in several areas in the county. Athlone St. Ciarans, Mullingar Shamrocks, Ringtown Myles O'Reilly, Riverstown Emmets, Coosan Fenians, Raharney Rovers, Crookedwood, Drumraney Leo Caseys, Castlepollard, Lismacaffrey, Simonstown, and Clonkill nearly all still going strong, were the outstanding teams. Hurling was organised in Athlone in 1904 with such enthusiasm that Athlone St. Ciarans won the Westmeath Senior Championship in 1905, and became the nucleus of all County hurling teams for a decade.

Hugh Hanley, Mick Burns, Jim Buckley, Pat O'Brien, M. Gibney, Frank Larkin, John Gaynor, Joe Burns, Owen Sweeney, Paddy Malynn, Mick Reilly, Joe Bracken, Batty Murphy, and Frank Talbott were the principal Athlone hurlers during this period. Joe Kearney, Joe Cleary, and Peter Tormey, Mullingar; Michael Bruton, and Fagan, Ringtown; Matt White, Raharney, and Paddy McCabe, Castlepollard, also deserve the greatest praise for their excellent work on behalf of hurling in the county.

Twenty-seven championships have been decided since Senior hurling was put on an organised basis in 1904. Athlone leads the way with six, Ringtown follows with five, Clonkill four, Raharney three, Mullingar two, Castlepollard two, Drumraney two, and Riverstown, Castletown Geoghegan and Mental Hospital one each.

ATHLONE'S PART.

Athlone is, and, with the exception of the period 1893 to 1903, has always been the mainspring of the G.A.A. in South Westmeath. The best-organised and most enthusiastic clubs in Ireland are at present established there, and a pleasing and heartening feature is the fine spirit of co-operation between the young and the older Gaels. Almost all the men who for the past thirty years have been the driving force behind the Gaelic Athletic Association in Athlone are still active members and regularly attend the meetings

1906 was a year of much Gaelic activity in Athlone. A great match between Athlone and Cuchullans, the Dublin champions, was played in Rafferty's field, and after a great match Athlone won by 21 points to 20. In that year there were three Camogie teams in the town—Athlone Ladies, Athloone Woollen Mills, and Athlone Town.

A young Clareman, Mr. Patrick Markham, came to the town in that year and became one of the pillars of the G.A.A. in the locality for over a quarter of a century. His unexpected death last year was a distinct loss.

One of the most prominent Gaels in Athlone then and now, Mr. Hugh Hanly, proposed the motion at Congress in 1906 which led to the abolition of the old point posts.

Athlone town is divided into two parts by the Shannon, and although the whole town is in Westmeath for all purposes some club put forward the suggestion that the portion of the town on the right bank of the river was in Co. Roscommon. A query on the matter was put to Congress in 1906, and Congress decided that "all Athlone is in Westmeath for G.A.A. purposes." This decision still stands, notwithstanding some efforts to upset it during the past few years.

In the early days of the Great War, football fell on evil days in Athlone, but in 1916 Mr. Tim O'Brien, N.T., the present chairman of the South Westmeath Board, reorganised it.

LEADING ADMINISTRATORS.

In the growth and development of the Association in the county up to 1926 the following, in addition to those already mentioned, played a distinguished part: J. J. Feehan, who was chairman from 1912 to 1920; James J. Carey, T.C., chairman from 1921 to 1924; Christy Duffy, chairman in 1925; Larry Leech, in 1926; P. Glennon, secretary from

(Continued on Page 93)

ATHLONE (ST. CIARANS), WESTMEATH SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS, 1905.

Front Row: P. Norton, M. Byrne, H. Hanley, J. Gaynor, C. Ward. Middle Row: T. Buckley, T. O'Shea, P. Burke, H. Reilly, G. Mahoney, J. Cleary. Third Row: D. Cahalane, M. Ryan, J. Burke, F. Larkin, T. Burke, L. Norton. Committee: B. McDonnell, O. Sweeney, C. Healy, J. Hynes, M. Molloy, S. O'Brien, P. Murray, J. Sharkey, P. O'Brien, K. Begedan, T. McGibney, J. Byrne.

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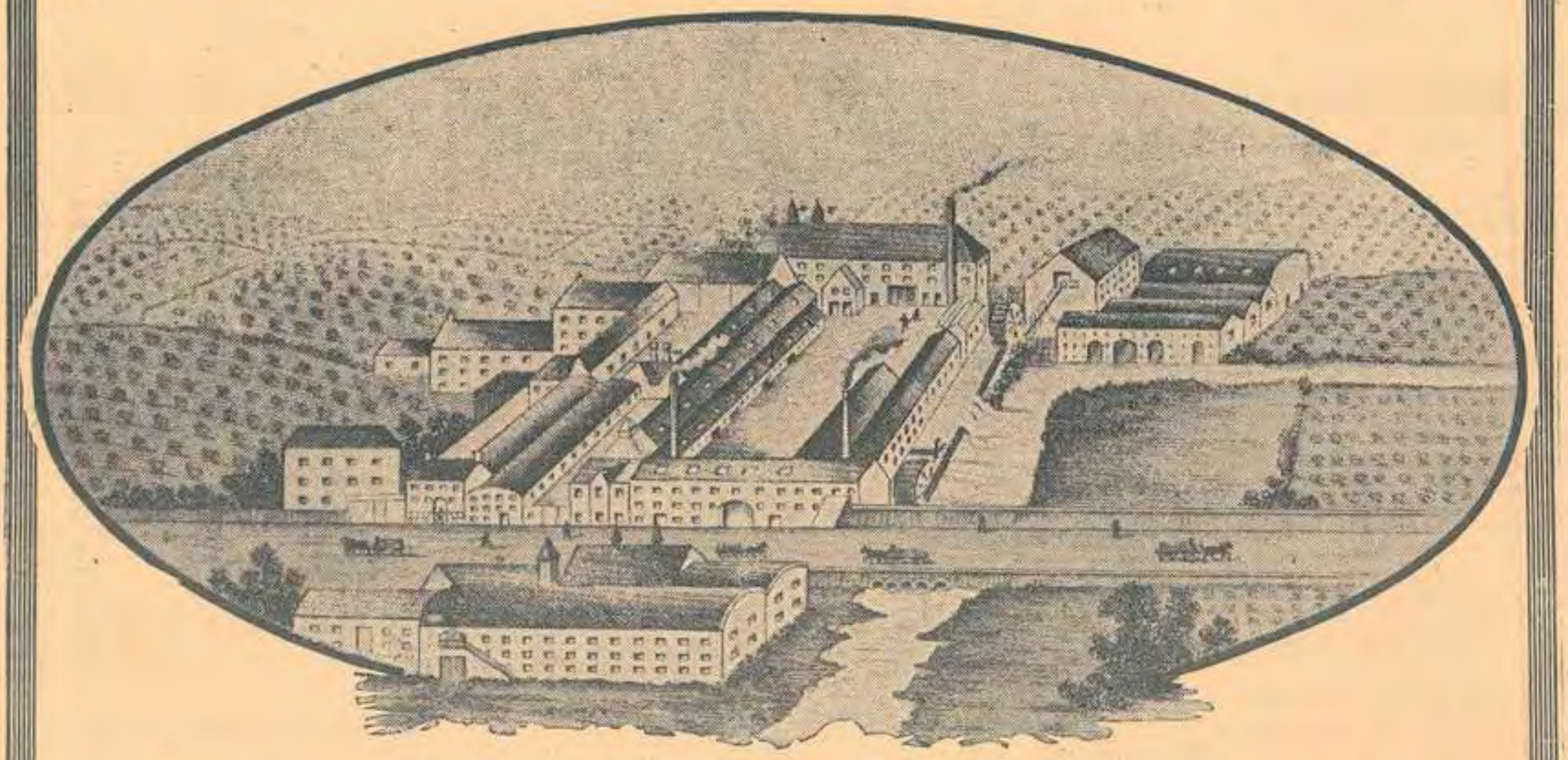

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WESTMEATH—*(Continued from Page 91)*

1923 to 1926: Paddy Arthur, a vice-chairman; Hugh Sheehan, a treasurer; Paddy Geraghty and Jimmy Reilly, Kinnegad; Sean Hogan, Moate; Paddy Whelahan and Sean Fagan, Rochfortbridge; T. Carly, The Downs; T. Lenihan, Delvin; Pat (Chest) Henry, Athlone.

"INDEPENDENT" PRIZE-WINNER.

It is interesting to note that Mr. James J. Carey won the £20 prize offered by the "Irish Independent" for the correct forecast of the 1925 All-Ireland Football Final, Kerry v. Dublin. Mr. Carey forecasted the correct score—Kerry, 4 points; Dublin, 3 points—and he estimated the attendance as 28,455, which was the nearest to the official figures, 28,844. Mr. Carey has given over thirty years' service to the G.A.A. and was largely instrumental in keeping the Association going in Mullingar and district.

Westmeath entered the Leinster Championships in 1902, when they were beaten by Wexford on the score of ten points to four. In 1905 Westmeath, Wicklow, Carlow, and Longford were put into the newly-formed Junior Grade, and Westmeath had the honour to win the first Leinster Junior Football Championship that year. The County team consisted of eight Riverstown, five Cullion, and four Athlone players.

In 1912 the county hurlers won the Leinster Junior Hurling Championship and thus qualified to meet Cork in the first All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship. Cork won by 3-6 to 2-1

In 1915 Westmeath again won the Leinster Junior Football Championship by defeating Wexford at Croke Park by 4-2 to one point. In 1929 Westmeath won its third Leinster Junior Football Championship, but this time went ahead and annexed its first All-Ireland Championship, decisively beating Roscommon and Limerick in the semi-finals and London in the final.

Since 1930 Westmeath has been participating with distinction in the Senior Football Championships, and in that and the following year won out the Midland Division of the National Football League. In 1933 Westmeath were narrowly beaten at Breffni Park in the League Semi-final by Cavan, who later in the year won the All-Ireland Championship.

COUNTY REORGANISED.

A complete reorganisation of the Association in Westmeath was effected on the election of Capt. Peadar Cowan as chairman in January, 1927. Captain Cowan immediately provided new bye-laws and put the administration of the county on a totally new basis. New competitions were organised and set going, and in a short time the county was humming with Gaelic activity.

On the playing field Captain Cowan also made a wonderful improvement. He himself set the example of strict and impartial refereeing, and in a short time rough and dangerous tactics were completely eliminated, and a high standard of conduct was established. Under his chairmanship Westmeath secured its first All Ireland Championship in 1929.

He insisted on having all county leagues and championships in senior, junior, and minor football and hurling finished within the current year, and ruthlessly dealt with teams who failed to carry out a fixture.

Two things only were hampering Westmeath—the existence of a debt, which was increasing year by year until at the end of 1931 it reached the big sum of £265; and the absence of a full sized Gaelic park in which first class inter-county matches could be played and the county players could be trained. The following year Capt. Cowan was elected Secretary, and the big debit balance was converted into a credit balance of £30.

This remarkable success was brought about by hard work and co-operation on the part of the officers of the County Committee and of the clubs, and by the assistance given by individual Gaels and well-wishers everywhere in the county. During this year Mr. Sean Garland, N.T., Streamstown, was chairman, Mr. Ben Hickey, N.T., Rosemount, was vice-chairman, Mr. Paddy Carey was Leinster Council representative, Mr. Dan Leavy, N.T., was chairman of the Primary Schools' League Committee; and these, together with Rev. P. Dunne, C.C., Castletown Geoghegan, and Capt. Cowan, carried through the programme which relieved the county of the debt which had been impeding it for many years.

Just as in 1910, the 1932 senior football championship led to a thrilling final, in which three matches became necessary to decide it. Kilbeggan, the holders of the title, were opposed by Rosemount, and, after two indecisive matches at Streamstown, were beaten on the second replay at Kilbeggan.

In addition to clearing off the big debt the County Committee in 1932 purchased the site of and commenced work on Cusack Memorial Park in Mullingar.

THE MULLINGAR PARK.

At the Convention in 1933 Captain Cowan asked to be relieved of the Secretarial duties, and the following officers were appointed:—President, Rev. P. Dunne; Chairman, Captain Cowan; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Sean Garland, N.T.; Secretary, Mr. Dan Leavy, N.T.; Treasurer, Mr. Ben Hickey, N.T.; Leinster Council, Captain Cowan and Mr. P. Carey. These officers, with Supt. T. Woods, Garda Siochana, and Rev. E. C. Crinion, Mr. P. Brett, Co. C., T.C.; Mr. J. J. King, Mr. T. Cousins, Mr. P. McEvoy, and Mr. J. Ryan formed the Committee which carried through the Park Project to a successful conclusion.

The new Park was formally opened by his Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Mulvany, Bishop of Meath, and dedicated to the memory of the founder of the Association on July 16, 1933, amid circumstances that lent religious, national, and athletic eclat to the event. The attendance at the opening ceremony totalled 12,000, and the gate receipts exceeded £700.

In addition to the remarkable achievement of opening Cusack Memorial Park last year, the Secretary, Mr. D. Leavy, was in the happy position to announce at the end of the year that a record profit of £709 had been made in 1933. These wonderful successes in a single year have no parallel in the history of the Association or of any other similar organisation.

The work of the County Committee has this year been shared with eight District Boards, all the officers of which are earnest, sincere, and hardworking. The District Boards are supervised and assisted by the County Committee, the officers of which were elected at the Annual Convention in January as follows:—President, Rev. P. Dunne; Chairman, Mr. Sean Garland, N.T.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Dan Leavy, N.T.; Secretary, Captain Peadar Cowan; Treasurer, Mr. Paddy Carey; and Registrar, Mr. Brendan Walsh.

Westmeath is going forward.

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The Old Town Hall, Thurles, where Conventions were held in the early days of the Association.

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HOLDERS OF SIX CHAMPIONSHIPS

WEXFORD

Chairman—Mr. P. D. Breen.
Secretary—Mr. M. Kehoe.
Colours—Blue and Gold (Jerseys blue; cuffs and collars gold.)

WEXFORD'S record in the G.A.A. is second to that of no other county in Leinster. In all branches of sport for which the Association was founded Wexford attained a high degree of excellence, and has given the Association some of its most efficient workers.

The records of the Association show that the county was prominent both in hurling and football from its inception, being runners-up for All-Ireland honours in hurling in 1890 and 1891, and winning the All-Ireland Football Championship in 1893.

Better known as a hurling county in the early years of the Association, Wexford later developed into a football county, attaining the highest honours in 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, thus establishing a record never before equalled and still unsurpassed.

Unfortunately, the rise of football tended to the neglect of hurling, and led to a regrettable decline in its efficiency, which resulted in the withdrawal of Wexford for a number of years from Senior Inter-County Competitions and the grading of the county as of junior rank.

At present, I am glad to say that hurling is on the up-grade once more, while our footballers hold their own with the best. Wexford sends forward teams to compete in Inter-County Competitions in all grades in both hurling and football—three hurling teams and three football teams in Senior, Junior, and Minor competitions.

Since 1918 Wexford has not figured in an All-Ireland final, though she has been fighting strenuously in Senior football, reaching the semi-final in 1925. Her Junior hurlers were beaten in the semi-final in 1926 by Tipperary.

For the past two years Wexford has reached the Leinster final in football—and her stalwarts are determined in this jubilee year to go one better by winning Leinster honours. Should this happen, she can be counted upon to make a bold bid for the highest title.

HOPES FOR HURLERS.

Hurling, originally confined to the "Over the Water" district—that is, the barony of Shelmalier East, has been developed in recent years in the barony of Forth, New Ross district, and is definitely improving, although much leeway will have to be made up before Wexford is able to aspire to the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship. With a continuance of the present enthusiasm for the game, it is more than possible, let us hope, probable, that Wexford hurlers will be seen in the Leinster final in the near future.

ORGANISATION WORK.

Originally the Co. Committee, which governs the Association in the county, was composed of one representative from each club, with chairman, secretary, and treasurer appointed at the Co. Convention. With the increase in the number of clubs, this arrangement was found to be unwieldy, with the result that in 1912 the county was divided into four districts—Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy, and Gorey.

The district elect chairman and hon. secretary, with three other representatives represent the district on the County Committees. The County Convention elects the county chairman, secretary, treasurer, and registrar, and representatives on the Leinster Council who are also members of County Committee.

The District Committees consist of the chairman, secretary, and one representative from each club. They have charge of the Junior and Minor Championships in the districts. The winners of the district championships go forward to meet the winners of the other districts in the semi-finals and finals.

OVER 90 CLUBS.

The County Committee have charge of the Senior and Intermediate competitions. In all there are over 90 clubs affiliated with the Co. Board—an average of over two clubs for each parish in the county.

HANDBALL'S POPULARITY.

Handball is very popular in the county, and Wexford has produced many notable exponents of the game, both hard ball and soft ball, second to none.

No other county in the province can boast of so many first-class alleys—very few parishes being without one. A little organisation would suffice to produce handballers fit for any company.

CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD.

Football—Won the Leinster and All-Ireland Championships in 1893, 1915-1918. Won the Leinster Championships, 1890, 1913-1918, and 1925; the Croke Cup Championship, 1897, and the Leinster Junior Championship, 1911.

Hurling—Won the Leinster and All-Ireland Championships, 1910, and the Leinster Championships, 1890, 1891, 1898, 1901, 1918. Won the Leinster Junior Championship, 1926.

PUBLIC PATRONAGE.

The different fixtures in the county competitions are well patronised by the public, and the popularity of the games can best be judged on the occasion of important inter-county contests, when the county teams draw thousands of enthusiastic followers from every part of the county and from all sections.

A large measure of this popularity may be attributed to the Press in the county, which has consistently given a large measure of publicity to G.A.A. doings with excellent reports of all matches.

THE LANGUAGE CAUSE.

Since the Gaelic League was established it has had the closest co-operation of the G.A.A. in Wexford, the principal sources of revenue at the various Feiseanna resulting from football or hurling matches in connection with same. Among the scholarships offered for competition by the Committee of Feis Carman for years has been one offered by the G.A.A. for competition among its members.

GAELIC GROUNDS.

By the acquiring of Wexford Park the G.A.A. in Wexford has remedied a serious handicap on the Association in the county. Up to two years ago we had no ground that we could call our own. Now we can boast of one of the finest parks in Ireland, thanks to the help given by the Leinster and Central Councils and the energy and enthusiasm of the Committee in charge.

With the erection of a stand in the near future, the ground will be capable of accommodating well over twenty thousand people, while the pitch is admitted to be equal to any in the country. The securing of such a fine headquarters is an important landmark in the history of the Association in the county, and is certain to result in increased prestige for the G.A.A. in the future.

"CARMANACH."

A Wexford Champion Team

WEXFORD, ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS, 1910. Played against America 1911 at Wexford Park. Back Row: J. Fowler, J. Wilson, R. Fortune, P. Redmond, P. J. Mackey, J. J. Hogan (Referee). Middle Row: P. Breen, T. Murphy, M. Parker, P. Roche, J. O'Leary, J. Mythen, J. Devereux. Front Row: J. Fortune, W Devereux, Sean Kennedy (capt.), P. Corcoran, M. Neville.

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IN THE O'DWYER COUNTY

WICKLOW

Chairman—Mr. C. M. Byrne.

Secretary—Mr. J. J. Doyle, Carnew.

Colours—Blue and Gold.

IT was only natural that a county so rich in the history of national endeavour as the O'Dwyer County was should at once fall into line with the G.A.A. Led by the late Mr. "Jack" Byrne, then of Ashford, and at the time a medical student in Dublin, and Mr. "Larry" Murphy, Togher, who was also a student in the city, the county at once took her place in the new Association. Mr. Garret Byrne, Secretary of the Co. Wicklow is a son of the late Mr. John Byrne, mentioned above. Mr. Murphy is, happily, still with us.

The Association quickly spread in the county. The first sports under its auspices was held in 1885. Ashford was the first properly affiliated club.

The first match played in the county was Ashford versus Dalkey. "Jack" Byrne captained the Wicklow representatives, and the late J. J. O'Reilly (afterwards a member of Wicklow County Committee, and father to Tom O'Reilly, Secretary to the Wicklow County Board, G.A.A., for a period) captained Dalkey. This was in 1886.

Togher, Barndarrig, Wicklow Town, whose Association football team turned to Gaelic, affiliated in 1886. Bray and Rathnew followed shortly afterwards.

These six clubs represented Co. Wicklow against Co. Wexford at a tournament played at Avondale in 1886. Avondale, Clara, O'Conari, and Kilcool were soon added to the list, followed by Kilmacanoge. Annacurra came on the scene about this time, and for a long period dominated the Championships. They were the first to organise a club in South Wicklow.

GOOD PROGRESS.

The following year saw extraordinary development of the Association. Every town and village had its team. West Wicklow made remarkable progress in numbers and prowess.

The famous "98's" from the secluded little mountain centre of Ballyknockan, after defeating Rathdangan, met the Maurice Davins (Baltinglass). Both had almost unbeaten records. The match was played at Hollywood, and a replay was necessary. They met again at Athgreaney. That was a game! The spectators who survive describe it as the greatest match ever played in West Wicklow. The "98's" won, only to go down before Annacurra.

Annacurra, as champions, played the Blue and Whites (Wexford) on the grounds of the latter. A replay at Clonskeagh followed, and the Wexford team won after a gruelling game.

The first Co. Convention was held in the Town Hall, Wicklow, on St. Stephen's Day, 1886. The great majority of those who attended have passed away. The spirit, enthusiasm, and sincerity of the big crowd of delegates from every centre in the county pointed to a successful future for the Association in Wicklow.

Mr. Andrew Hyland was elected President on the proposition of Mr. Morgan Travers, who for many years was very prominent in the public life of Co. Wicklow. Mr. Pat McDonnell (afterwards Town Clerk of Bray) was elected hon. secretary, and Mr. L. Cullen (father of Mrs. C. M. Byrne and Mr. A. J. Cullen, State Solicitor for Co. Wicklow), treasurer.

The following year Wicklow was drawn against Clare, and the match was fixed to be played on a Tuesday in Athlone. Wicklow refused to travel such a long, unreasonable journey.

In 1889 Mr. McDonnell became Co. President, and Mr. Simon Doyle Secretary. Mr. P. Byrne, Ashford, represented the county on the Central Council. Ashford Club maintained the leading position till 1889, when Clara deposed them, and were in turn defeated by Annacurra. Wicklow Town wrote their name on the roll of champions in '91. The late Mr. J. H. McCarroll, President, and Mr. P. Kearney, were prominently identified with the club at the time.

Mat Murtagh became President in 1900, with Mr. P. Behan as Secretary. The late Luke O'Toole, who had just been elected Secretary to the Central Council, attended this Convention.

Mr. Murtagh was again elected President in 1905, with Mr. "Ned" Murphy, Tinahely Treasurer, and W. J. O'Duffy —still with us—Secretary. This was the first Convention attended by the present President, Mr. C. M. Byrne, who has held the position frequently since then. At Aughrim, two years later, T. Fleming (President), J. McCrea (Vice-President), and S. J. Kelly (Secretary), were elected.

At this time each county had a representative on the Central Council. Mr. C. M. Byrne was appointed to represent Wicklow that year.

The following year the same officers were elected and in 1910 Mr. C. M. Byrne became President; P. J. Carey, Jun., Treasurer, and Tom Fleming Sec. Mr. Byrne retained the position for many years. He was succeeded in 1919 by Mr. "Jim" Kavanagh.

A COLLAPSE AVERTED.

Father Flanagan became President in 1920. The year following threatened to be disastrous, and when the Association in the County was on the verge of collapse, Mr. C. M. Byrne, on the suggestion of "An Old Gael," started a revival which proved a success. Father Farrell, C.C., was appointed President in 1921; Micheal O Ceallaigh, Father Hanlon, and (again) Mr. C. M. Byrne occupied the chair in succession in the following years.

INTER-COUNTY MATCHES.

Space limitations prevent details of matches. In 1896 Wicklow (mostly players from Rathnew) defeated Offaly. Con McSwiney, T. Doyle (Capt.), and Jack Gorman were on the team, which made a fine show in the next round against Dublin, represented by the famous Young Ireland team. George Roche, a Wicklow man, captained the Dubliners.

Wicklow players during the years 1900-1904 were in the front rank. Represented by Rathnew, they defeated the then powerful footballers, Isles of the Sea and Bray Emmets, in competitions.

Wicklow won the Leinster Junior Championship in 1920. They had previously won a competition confined to Carlow, Wicklow, Longford and Westmeath. Wicklow went into Senior rank in 1910 and had very hard luck when defeated by Dublin.

Hurling had made great strides in the county in the meantime. The county's hurlers played a great game against Dublin. Sandy Byrne captained Wicklow and the late Harry Boland Dublin.

Wicklow should nave won the Leinster competition in 1912. They fielded a depleted team, owing to accidents and family bereavements, against Laoighis, and were beaten only by a point. It is worthy of note that Wexford beat Laoighis by a point in the Leinster final. Carlow and Wicklow Juniors met on many occasions with honours even. Carnew, Rathdangan, and Blessington are also included in the list of champions.

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GAMES OF 200 YEARS AGO

Irishmen have always played games—even against the law. They hurled and played football, ignoring the Statute of Kilkenny (1367) and the Act passed by the Williamite Parliament of Ireland in 1695.

The Kilkenny enactment ordained "that the commons of the said land of Ireland use not henceforth the games which men call hurlings with great clubs at ball upon the ground"; and the Dublin statute imposed a fine on any person found playing hurling and football on the Lord's Day.

By the middle of the eighteenth century inter-county and inter-provincial matches were often played. Many of the Irish gentry took part in these contests, which were played for money, and, like the early G.A.A. games, on a week-day. Great crowds attended, and sometimes even the wife of the Lord Lieutenant.

A hurling match played on the Curragh in October, 1763, "gave her Excellency the Countess of Northumberland the highest satisfaction, there being no such game in any other part of Europe, which is the most noble and manly exercise in the world."

In 1792 a hurling match was played in the Phoenix Park, "which was honoured with the presence of her Excellency the Countess of Westmoreland and several of the nobility and gentry, besides a vast concourse of spectators. Much agility and athletic contention took place, and great diversion was afforded, until the spectators forced into the playground," and the match remained unfinished.

Then, as now, Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Galway appear to have been very active in the game. The most famous venues were the Commons of Gowran, the Green of Urlingford, the Commons of Ballingarry, Thurles, and Gort. In Dublin matches were played on Crumlin Commons, Oxmantown Green, the Marlborough Bowling Green, Irishtown and the Park.

The match played near Banagher in September, 1773, appears to have carried the biggest side bet recorded. "This day, the grand Hurling Match, between the Counties of Galway and Tipperary for 1,000 Guineas, was finally decided in favour of the latter. There never, perhaps, was so great a company seen in the Kingdom before, as, at the lowest computation, there could not be less than 10,000 persons present." Curiously enough these same counties met in the first All-Ireland Final in 1887, and again Tipperary won.

FOOTBALL 200 YEARS AGO.

In the rural districts of Ireland football playing does not appear to have been at all as popular a game as hurling. One of the earliest references is to be found in the news of January, 1731, when Mr. Wesley, of Dangan (an ancestor of the Duke of Wellington), "gave an entertainment to the tenants. There was played a great match at Football between married men and bachelors."

But in the Metropolis it was a popular game among the masses, despite all the efforts made by the City Fathers to stamp it out. Oxmantown Green, before it was built upon, was the principal playing ground. The Lord Mayor often swooped upon the players, sent some to Newgate, and others on board tenders to serve King George.

A writer lamented in 1753 the "Inclosures" which were taking place, of grounds where the people of Dublin "used to wrestle, play at hurling, pitching of quoits, football, and other healthy amusements."

Dubliners fond of the game then resorted to Merrion Square Fields, which at that time stretched to Leeson Street, as we now know it, and on the North side to rural Drumcondra, where, in 1774, "a large party of the 56th Regiment of Foot, went on Sunday last to disperse a riotous mob, who weekly assemble there to play football."

A unique sight was witnessed in Dublin in January, 1740, when a football match was played on the Liffey, which was then frozen, the ice being six inches thick.

T. F. H.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUES

AN EXPERIMENT OF RECENT YEARS

THE National Leagues, which, like the Interprovincial Championships (Railway Cups) and the Minor Championships (for boys under 18 years), have been added to the G.A.A. programme within the past ten years, have not proved altogether satisfactory.

They were first introduced by way of providing a field of activity for teams that passed out of the Championships early and as an encouragement to the weaker counties.

The principal disadvantages with which the Leagues have to contend are that the expense incurred in travelling falls heavily on some counties and that following the close of the All-Ireland Championships many of the League games are played during a period of the year when patronage is limited and receipts are consequently low.

A few counties, particularly if they had reached the closing rounds, have found the Leagues a paying proposition, but in general there has been complaint, and lack of earnestness on the part of some of the entrants has not tended towards success.

LEADING COUNTIES DOMINANT

To a great extent the Leagues have departed from their original purpose, as they have become largely a competition, additional to the championships, for the leading counties in hurling and football. During the past year, however, a good deal has been done in the way of promoting secondary Leagues, and in Munster the experiment has been tried of catering for divisions rather than counties in a secondary Hurling League.

As a rule, League finals have offered rich fare, but this has been often due to the turn of events in the championships, and it is not as it should be that the Football League has rarely been closed within twelve months.

In a manner the Leagues may still be regarded as in the experimental stage, but the experience gained should be a big help in having them laid on a firmer basis.

The more entrants for the Leagues and the more successful they become, the greater will be the difficulty in having them fitted into the year's programme, if arrears are not to be carried over from one year to another.

These are questions, however, to occupy the attention of those who will be entrusted with the management and working of G.A.A. affairs in the future. And in aiming at perfection in the running of the Leagues, as in other things, it is the welfare and progress of the Association rather than the viewpoint of any particular county that should be the guiding principle.

THE LEAGUE WINNERS.

The National Leagues were first played in the season 1925-26, but they have not followed regularly each year since then. Six Leagues were decided in the eight years 1925-26 to 1932-33, and the winners in rotation are as follows:—

Hurling	Football
Cork	Laoighis
Tipperary	Kerry
Dublin	Kerry
Cork	Kerry
Galway	Kerry
Kilkenny	Meath

Second Division Leagues have been won by Clare in hurling, and Donegal, Tyrone and Westmeath (2) in football.

Support had increased from the 1933-34 Leagues, which had not been brought to a close at the time of writing. There was a recasting of the Football League groups but the Hurling League was run on the same lines as in the previous year—two groups of five counties each with a final tie between the group winners.

Secondary Hurling Leagues were played in Leinster, Munster, and Ulster and a secondary Football League in Ulster.

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